



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



Vessel Safety Check Newsletter

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Volume 7 Number 1

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Tony Budlong ADSO-VE Joaquin Duran ADSO-VE

Phil Grove ADSO-VE Alex Belleque ADSO-VE



DSO Comments

By Mike Lauro



Happy New Year!
I'd like to thank
ALL vessel
examiners for
their hard work
and dedication to
the VSC program

this past year! As I write this, the final statistics for 2009 are continuing to trickle in, but we've reached **130%** of the Commodore's 7,800 VSC objective with **10,092 VSC's!** It shows **YOUR** continued dedication and support of the VSC program and Recreational Boating Safety in general. I hope I can count on your support for 2010 to help reach our new goal of 10,000 VSC's! We achieved several goals for 2009, briefly: **31 SUPERSTARS** reached the 60+ VSC plateau. In addition, **95** examiners reached the 20+ VSC plateau. This is the most in inception of these programs in 2002! I hope everyone has been recognized for his or her hard work. In addition, I hope you'll find your name listed later in the newsletter.

Welcome aboard to the District VSC staff to Alex Belleque from 11-05.

Alex will join Tony Budlong from 6-4, Phil Grove 10-05, and Joaquin Duran 4-9 this year as an ADSO-VE. In addition to being a vessel examiner, he brings his talents to the staff to specialize in creating and maintaining our District website. Irene Wetzel DSO-CS suggested Alex to help relieve some of her workload pressure. Now that we have Alex as a dedicated webmaster, expect to see many updates and changes! Remember, this site is for **YOU** the examiner and will continue to make this is a **ONE-STOP** resource for **ALL** of your VSC needs. We are still the **ONLY** District to offer an all in one inclusive website. Congratulations to the D11NR members who as a result of their hard work in 2008 and 2009 have qualified for the new RBS device. Once you've earned it, you'll be proud to wear it. Please help promote the Vessel Examiner class amongst your new flotilla members at the upcoming February PCA Fair. Anyone who has taken this 2-day class will admit it's a great bargain at \$10.00! After I return from N/TRAIN in St. Louis, I'll have more to report about a

possible VE workshop and other developments at the National level. Hopefully the orange 2010 VSC decals will be available for order before late-January. Please encourage your Flotilla Commander and/or FSO-MA of **RECORD** to order the initial supply and other materials promptly. I'll notify everyone when the decals become available and the order form will be on the D11NR VE website: <http://rbsafety.d11nuscgaux.info/ve/ve.html>. Now is the time to make plans to adopt a marina, support NSBW, National Marina Day (**NEW DATE!**) and the "Wear It" campaign. Please see the calendar further in the newsletter for dates and please don't wait until the last minute! Additionally, let's not forget to support the National and state "WEAR IT" campaign by wearing our pfd's while performing VSC's. Again, while not required it's a good idea to

wear them when working around the marinas while on the dock and climbing aboard vessels.

Let's have some FUN with our VSC program and get potential and new members to an outing and get them involved by helping greet, directing traffic, passing out literature, etc. Let's not forget about the 4th cornerstone and occasionally include a potluck or a BBQ.

I'm looking for action VSC photos for the new photo page on our District Vessel Examiner site. If you think you may have a suitable photo, please send it to me at: sumfun@juno.com.

In the meantime, I look forward to another great year and wish you a safe, happy and VSC productive year. If there is anything I can do to help make your local VSC outings successful, I hope there will be no hesitation to contact me at: sumfun@juno.com

ADS Comments

By Joaquin Duran



Fellow examiners, as we approach the start of another boating season, I'd like to reflect on challenges and achievements of 2009. In spite of significantly lower levels in our lakes and other obstacles that really made it tough on both the family recreational boater and the sport fishing industry, thanks to your efforts, we were able to create over 10,000 one-on-one educational VSC's this season-an all time record! Under Mike's leadership, the District VSC program has made leaps and bounds in recent years and continues

to grow. His latest work, the vessel examiner upgraded website: <http://rbsafety.d11nuscgaux.info/ve/ve.html>, is an informative web site, is unique in its content and coverage. It's still the only one of its kind in the Auxiliary! As it continues to evolve, I hope you refer to it often and check out the new Photo Gallery.

Our efforts to increase our examiner base through classes at the PCA Training Fair couldn't be successful without your help promoting it to the new members. Those who have attended Mike's class will certainly attest that it is unique in presentation and content. It's been

great to have the opportunity to participate in this class.
 Are you a newly appointed VE officer for 2010? If so, you along with the repeating officers have assumed an additional responsibility of administration in addition to your regular duties as a vessel examiner. If you did not receive a job description from the appointing officer (FC or DCDR), you can find it at on the new VE D11NR web site: <http://rbsafety.d11nuscgaux.info/ve/ve.html>. I would like to ask the current and those considering appointment as either an SO-VE or FSO-VE take a minute and review the commitment you made or are considering. You help provide the structure upon which this fine organization rests, especially at the local level. By working as a true team, we can provide the information necessary to continue the meritorious service in a

professional manner, which the boating public has come to expect and deserves. Additionally, it is necessary to disseminate important timely information throughout our organization via reports. If Mike failed to communicate information, our program would be in a state of disarray, especially at the local levels. At the same time, each appointed officer has a responsibility to report at least once a month to their elected officer and both up and down the chain. In short, let's not forget the administrative responsibilities we agreed to accept. I know we can count on you, to complete 2010 with flying colors. Look for more changes for the coming year. As always, your comments are welcome.

 **VSC Calendar-2010**

- PCA Training Fair Coast Guard Island-February 20th-21st
- D/Train-Rohnert Park-March 26th-28th
- National Safe Boating Week May 22nd-28th
- National Marina Day-**June 12th-NEW DATE!**
- Past Captains Training Fair- Coast Guard Island-August 21st -22nd

 **Welcome Aboard and Welcome Back!**

James A. Ippolito	03-03	Lawrence E. Cardoza	03-09
Jose R. Pereira	04-09	Peter P. Bartolo*	05-05
Jonathan D. Briend	06-07	Jack T. Scheidecker	10-02

*Re-certification

With the addition of these 6 new and re-certified examiners for 2009, our examiner base total is now **323** 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 examiners who have performed 60 or more VSC's during 2009:

Richard A. Saber*	01-02	Robert J. Aston*	01-04
Michael F. Nolan*	01-05	Stephen R. Salmon *	01-07
William W. Burns	01-07	Gary OL. Link	03-03
James R. Goff*	03-05	Charles M. Duncan Jr.	03-09
Lonny B. Singer*	03-09	Annette F. Herring	03-09
Dan W. Weggeland	03-09	Jim D. Blackburn*	03-10
Joaquin P. Duran*	04-09	Steven M. Johnson	05-01
Johannes A. Pattiradjawane	05-02	Charles E. Mc Carty	05-03
Linda C. Mc Carty	05-03	Wilfred Sumner II	05-05
Gary N. Murray*	05-05	Ronald A. Kram	05-05
Anthony T. Budlong*	06-04	Jeremiah P. Collins*	08-08
Michael J. Lauro*	10-02	Michael A. Rafatti*	10-02
Anthony D. Leonardi*	10-03	John L. Paval*	10-03
Phillip E. Grove*	10-05	Neil P. Sliva*	10-05
Von C. Webber*	10-05	Joseph W. Harris	11-01
Thomas B. Henderson III	11-01		

*Denotes repeat performer!

Congratulations!

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

Jose Maria Castro	01-02	Richard A. Saber	01-02
Jerel Berkov	01-04	Robert J. Aston	01-04
Michael F. Nolan	01-05	Laurence B. Draper	01-05
Mark Mushet	01-05	Simone H. Adair	01-07
Stephen R. Salmon	01-07	Diana R. Serchia	01-07
Sue K. Fry	01-07	William W. Burns	01-07
Gary L. Link	03-03	David K. Talton	01-07
Richard A. Rutenschroer	03-03	James R. Goff	03-05
John G. Albro	03-05	Marla J. Moura	03-05
Dan W. Weggeland	03-09	Richard A. Garcia	03-09
Lonny B. Singer	03-09	Jeff D. Scarberry	03-09
Annette F. Herring	03-09	Charles M. Duncan Jr.	03-09
Manuel R. Garcia	03-09	Jim D. Blackburn	03-10
David R. Naumann	04-01	Joaquin P. Duran	04-09
Robert E. Smith	05-01	Steven M. Johnson	05-01
Johannes A. Pattiradjawane	05-02	Michael D. Mirata	05-02
Curtis S. Han	05-02	Charles E. Mc Carty	05-03
Linda C. Mc Carty	05-03	Randy C. Powers	05-03
Nelda Powers	05-03	Stephen M. Cramer	05-03

Gary N. Murray	05-05	Wilfred A Sumner II	05-05
Margaret R. Balch	05-07	Ronald A. Kram	05-05
Paul J. Brighton	05-07	John L. Banks	06-01
Anthony T. Budlong	06-04	Mart E. Gardner	07-02
Joyce W. Bell	07-08	Pamela V. Berger	07-08
Donald W. Robertson	07-08	Thomas P. O'Conner	08-06
Charles A Poplinger	08-07	Betty A. Strach	08-08
Jeremiah P. Collins	08-08	Robert E. White	08-08
William E. Sharp Jr.	10-02	Michael J. Lauro	10-02
Michael A. Raffatti	10-02	Matthew F. Innes	10-02
Marion A. Rider	10-03	John L. Paval	10-03
Irving R. Golub	10-03	Anthony D. Leonardi	10-03
Linda D. Lawrence	10-03	John P. Ferretti	10-05
Phillip E. Grove	10-05	Von C. Webber	10-05
Donald L. Pierce	10-05	Neil P. Sliva	10-05
David R. Flum	10-05	Steven W. Dicken	10-06
Diana D. Kincade	11-01	Bruce D. Mc Intyre	11-01
Leslie J. Pearlman	11-01	Thomas B. Henderson III	11-01
Joseph W. Harris	11-01	Angelo A. Perata	11-01
Patricia A. Walter	11-01	William M. Leopard	11-01
Donald A. Epstein	11-01	Jerry L. Gilmore	11-01
Peter F. Snook	11-01	Donald R. Morrison	11-01
Victor Beelik	11-04	James L. Snell	11-04
Ricky A. Thomas	11-05	William J. Stoltz	11-05
Alex C. Belleque	11-05	James S. Van Fleet	12-03
Fred A. Goodwin	12-03	John R. Kane	12-21
Clarence Johnson	12-21	Richard I. Niemi	12-21
Bruce E. Nicolai	12-91	Roger D. Haynes	12-91
Linda R. Haynes	12-91		

This brings our total to 95 examiners reaching this plateau!! This is approximately 26% of the total District examiner base. 2008 had 72 examiners or 18% 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 December 2009

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

1-Federal regulations require a copy of the Navigation Rules to be carried on board and maintained for ready reference on:

- a. All vessels operating on bodies of water wider than 3 miles at the mouth of the river or harbor.
- b. All vessels 39.4 feet and longer.
- c. All vessels 26 feet and longer.
- d. All sailboats 16 feet and longer.

2-Vessels eligible for a Vessel Safety Check include:

- a. Recreational vessels registered in Canada as long as they are in US waters.
- b. Work boats and tugboats if they are also used for recreational boating.
- c. Experimental design vessels to enhance their customer appeal and acceptance.
- d. SUBS such as canoes, kayaks, jon boats and PWC's.

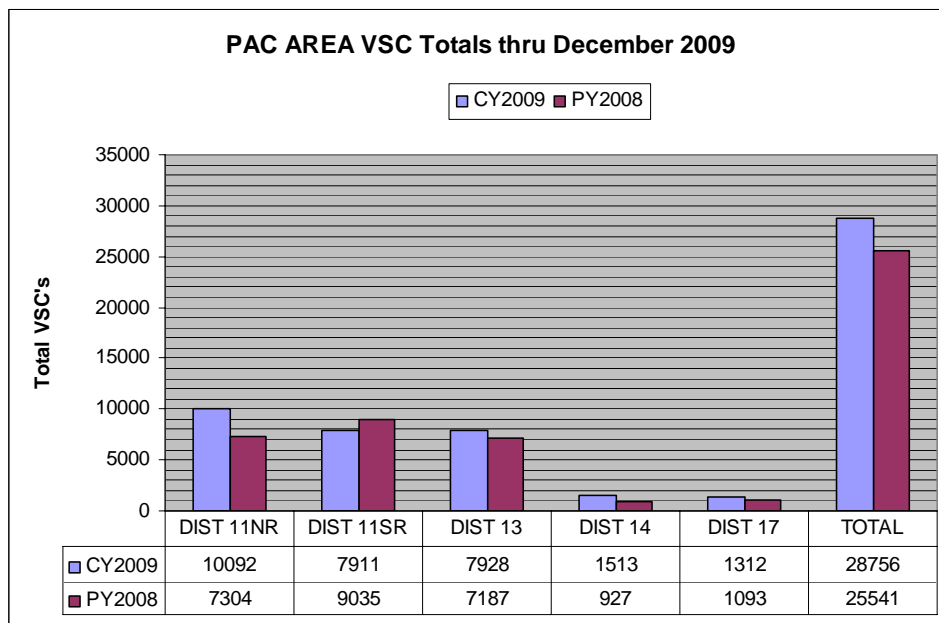
Bet You didn't Know...

One more bet you didn't know-

In the heyday of sailing ships, all war ships and many freighters carried iron cannons. Those cannons fired round iron cannon balls. It was necessary to keep a good supply near the cannon. However, how to prevent them from rolling about the deck? The best storage method devised was a square-based pyramid with one ball on top, resting on four resting on nine, which rested on sixteen. Thus, a supply of 30 cannon balls could be stacked in a small area right next to the cannon. There was only one problem...how to prevent the bottom layer from sliding or rolling from under the others. The solution was a metal plate called a "Monkey" with 16 round indentations. However, if this plate were made of iron, the iron balls would quickly rust to it. The solution to the rusting problem was to make "Brass Monkeys." Few landlubbers realize that brass contracts much more and much faster than iron when chilled. Consequently, when the temperature dropped too far, the brass indentations would shrink so much that the iron cannonballs would come right off the monkey. Thus, it was quite literally, "Cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey."

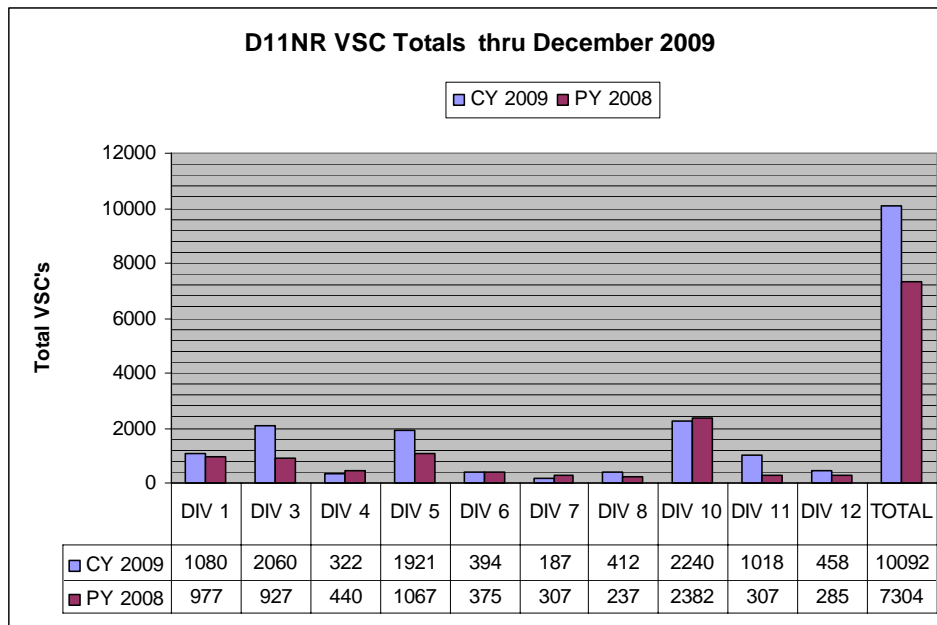
(All this time, you thought that was an improper expression, didn't you!)

PAC AREA 2009 Statistics*



*Statistics as shown in AUXINFO thru December 31, 2009

D11NR 2009 Statistics*



*Statistics as shown in AUXINFO thru December 31, 2009

The goal for D11NR for 2009 was **7,800 VSC's**. We are **130%** of our goal for the year and **138%** 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 **6,317** or **62%** of our VSC's are First Time VSC's. In addition **6,040** or **60%** are High Risk VSC's.

PAC AREA 2009 Statistics*

National and District News

District News

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. Next time you see YN3 Stacy Curtin, give her a BIG thank you for creating a new program and ending the frustrating waiting period!

National News

The following is courtesy of Joe Harris FSO-VE 11-01 regarding his inquiry about performing VSC's on paddlecraft:

"This has come from the top of the "V" department as well as Coast Guard headquarters. **Stand-up Paddleboards may be classified as vessels but they are not eligible to receive a VSC decal nor should VE's claim VSC credit for them. This is official policy."**

George R Bores, BC-VTR

-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 2009!

Question 1-"b" See page 26 of the VSC Manual

Question 2-"d" 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!



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.