



**Homeland Security**

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

*Serving Northern California, Nevada, Utah*



**Vessel Examinations Department  
Report for: June 2008**

**To:** VCO Michael L. Williams D11NR  
**From:** Michael J. Lauro – DSO-VE 11NR  
**Cc:** DCO Victor J. Connell, IPDCO Eric Jacobson, DIRAUX, All RCO's,  
 All DCPs, All DSO's, ADSO-VE, and All SO-VE's  
**Subject:** DSO-VE Report



** DIVISION STAFF OFFICER ACTIVITY REPORTS FROM: May 2008**

**-DIVISION 1 SAN FRANCISCO (Richard Saber SO-VE)**

Vessel Safety Checks:

<b>Flotilla 1-2</b>	Reports	32 VSC's	<b>Flotilla 1-4</b>	Reports	50 VSC's
<b>Flotilla 1-5</b>	Reports	25 VSC's	<b>Flotilla 1-7</b>	Reports	31 VSC's
<b>Flotilla 1-9</b>	Reports	0 VCS's			

**VSC COUNT YTD: 335\***

**VSC COUNT PYTD: 381\***

**Summary of activities conducted in this period:**

1-2- report made 19 May – NSBW assisted Pier 39, asst. San Francisco Y.C. helped qualify new VE for Flot. 1-4.

1-4-report made 18 May VSC Day scheduled SFYC 18 May NSBW includes 2 Facilities

1-5-report made 22 May, VSC Day held at Brisbane Marina for NSBW

1-7-report made 19 May, good event Ballena Bay, also called in fuel spill at Marina

1-9-report made 13 May, includes 1 Facility

37 VSC's were reported along with many successful events reported for Nat'l Safe Boating Week by Flotilla's including handouts of AWW materials.

**Activities planned for the next 30 days: none reported**

**-DIVISION 3 CENTRAL VALLEY (James Goff SO-VE)**

Vessel Safety Checks:

<b>Flotilla 3-1</b>	<b>NO REPORT SUBMITTED</b>	<b>Flotilla 3-3</b>	Reports No VSC Activity
<b>Flotilla 3-5</b>	9 VSC's	<b>Flotilla 3-9</b>	<b>NO REPORT SUBMITTED</b>
<b>Flotilla 3-10</b>	Reports No VSC Activity		

**Summary of activities conducted in this period:** On May 17<sup>th</sup> the Division had a VSC station at Sacramento Radio for the start of NSBW. A total of 4 VSC's were performed during NSBW. In Addition on May 24<sup>th</sup> a VSC station was held at West Marine and unfortunately no VSC's were conducted, however 4 people signed-up for the BS&S class.

**Activities planned for the next 30 days:**

Flotilla 3-3 reports a VSC station Jun 14<sup>th</sup> at Discovery Park. Flotilla 3-5 reports upcoming VSC plans June 14<sup>th</sup> at West Marine, June 28<sup>th</sup> at Discovery Park, July 26<sup>th</sup> at Discovery Park and August 30<sup>th</sup>. Flotilla 3-10 plans VSC's at Sacramento Radio, Garcia Bend, Discovery Park, and Miller Park-dates pending.

**VSC COUNT YTD: 114\***

**VSC COUNT PYTD: 171\***

**-DIVISION 4 SOUTH BAY** (*Joaquin Duran SO-VE*)

Vessel Safety Checks:

**Flotilla 4-1** Reports 10 VSC's

**Flotilla 4-6** Reports 15 VSC's

**Flotilla 4-9** Reports 43 VSC's

**Flotilla 4-3 NO REPORT SUBMITTED**

**Flotilla 4-8** Reports 0 VSCs

**Summary of activities conducted in this period:** As part of NSBW, VSC events were held at Coyote Park by Flotilla 4-1, at Redwood City Marina by Flotillas 4-6 and 4-9. A Public affairs event was also held at the West Marine store in Palo Alto by flotilla 4-3. Congratulations to Steve Ward, our Flotilla 4-1 new VE.

**Summary of activities for the next 30 days:**

Due to the Zebra/quagga mussel problem, the lakes at South Santa Clara County have been temporarily closed, until an inspection protocol is established by the park rangers. In the meantime, effort will continue at nearby ocean Marinas.

**VSC COUNT YTD : 275\***

**VSC COUNT PYTD : 255\***

**-DIVISION 5 SUISIN BAY** (*Robert Smith SO-VE*)

Vessel safety checks:

**Flotilla 5-1** Reports 38 VSC's

**Flotilla 5-3** Reports 64 VSC's

**Flotilla 5-7** Reports 50 VSC's

**Flotilla 5-2** Reports 20 VSC's

**Flotilla 5-5** Reports 61 VSC's

**Summary of activities conducted in this period:**

NSBW VSC count is : Flotilla 5-1 22 VSC's, Flotilla 5-2 5 VSC's, Flotilla 5-5 61 VSC's and Flotilla 5-7 with 46 VSC's. Total of 198 VSC's performed for NSBW.

**Activities planned for next 30 days:** Flotilla 5-1 has a VSC station scheduled for 28 June at Sugar Barge Marina on Bethel Island (this is in support of a large Blitz in the Delta by Cal Boating). Flotilla 5-5 has scheduled June 7<sup>th</sup> VSC station at Lake Sonoma from 0730 to 1300 this event averages more or less 80 VSC's.

**VSC COUNT YTD: 290\***

**VSC COUNT PYTD: 359\***

**-DIVISION 6 MONTEREY BAY** (*Stan Wolfberg SO-VE*)

**Flotilla 6-1** Reports 7 VSC's

**Flotilla 6-7** Reports No VSC Activity

**Summary of activities conducted in this period:** Flotilla 6-1 reports 1 new examiner and 1 booth.

**Activities planned for next 30 days: none**

**VSC COUNT YTD: 104\***

**Flotilla 6- 4 NO REPORT SUBMITTED**

**Flotilla 6-10** Reports 5 VSC's

**VSC COUNT PYTD: 158\***

**-DIVISION 7 UTAH** (*Riley Turpin SO-VE*)

**Flotilla 7-2** Reports 78 VSC's

**Flotilla 7-6** Reports 14 VSC's

**Summary of activities conducted in this period:** Division 7 kicked off the 2008 boating season with a very successful VSC station @ Jordanelle State Park on 16, 17, & 18 May. This event provides a great NSBW kick-off and opportunities for our Vessel Examiners. VSC's were also performed @ the El Nautica Boat Marina on Utah Lake on Sat. 23 May. Memorial Day Weekend we had a VSC Station @ Green River State Park.

**Activities planned for next 30 days:** Electric Lights Parade at Saratoga Springs on Utah Lake on 6/20

**VSC COUNT YTD: 2\***

**Flotilla 7-3 NO REPORT SUBMITTED**

**Flotilla 7-8** Reports 53 VSC's

**VSC COUNT PYTD: 34\***

**-DIVISION 8 NORTH COAST: (Douglas R. Pohlson SO-VE)**

Vessel Safety Checks -

**Flotilla 8-6** Reports 12 VSC's

**Flotilla 8-7** Reports 11 VSC's

**Flotilla 8-8** Reports 38 VSC's

**Flotilla 8-11** Reports 24 VSC's

**Summary of activities conducted in this period:** May NSBW Flotilla 8-6 VSC Booth, Safe boating class, life Jacket giveaway and 12 VSC's. Flotilla 8-7 performed 9 VSC's at docks. Flotilla 8-8 had a VSC Booth, produced 31 VSC's at 3 ramps on Clear Lake. Passed out 10 Dock Walker boating kits, life Jacket giveaway at Wal-Mart. Coastie was in use. Flotilla 8-11 had a VSC Booth, VE's at boat ramp, 8 class rooms visited, a life Jacket giveaway and produced 21 VSC's.

**Activities planned for the next 30 days:** Flotilla 8-8 has a Life Jacket giveaway planned at the Ukiah Wal-Mart. Flotilla 87 will assist.

**VSC COUNT YTD: 79\***

**VSC COUNT PYTD: 185\***

**-DIVISION 10 SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY: (none on record)**

Vessel Safety Checks:

Flotilla 10-2 Reports 200 VSC's

Flotilla 10-3 Reports 55 VSC's

Flotilla 10-5 Report 36 VSC's

Flotilla 10-6 **NO REPORT SUBMITTED**

**Summary of activities conducted in this period:** Flotilla 10-02 reports 70 VSC's performed at N/S Camanche 5/3 and S/S Camanche, Buckley Cove and Don Pedro during NSBW. In addition, approx. 35 VSC's were conducted thru the Forever Resort program set-up by the DSO-VE. Chris Arroyo qualified as a new examiner. Flotilla 10-03 did 55 Vessel Safety checks all during NSBW at different locations, from New Malone's Res. and 2 in Stockton, 1 location had life jackets given out to the youth that participated. Flotilla 10-05 reports 4 VSC's at West Marine and 5 VSC's for NSBW.

**Activities planned for the next 30 days:** Flotilla 10-02 plans VSC stations 6/7 at N/S Camanche, 6/14 at S/S Camanche and 6/21 at Don Pedro and 6/21 at Buckley Cove. In addition, the houseboat VSC project will be completed on 6/24. Flotilla 10-03 has June dates at New Hogan and New Melones. Flotilla 10-05 plans a VSC/PA booth is planned for June 21<sup>st</sup>.

**VSC COUNT YTD: 702\***

**VSC COUNT PYTD: 818\***

**NOTE: No SO-VE of record. Above information was supplied directly to DSO-VE by FSO-VE's from 10-2 10-3, 10-5. No report received from FSO-VE 10-06.**

**-DIVISION 11 SIERRA: (Ray Ellen Wise SO-VE)**

**Summary of activities conducted in this period:** Well, thanks to some bad weather we have gotten off to a slow and rocky start to our VE activities. We have had a pretty normal May here in Tahoe and Northern Nevada with the unpredictable weather. It rained and snowed over Memorial Day weekend and boats are just starting to trickle in. We had 17 VSC's in the second quarter. Since it has been so cool they had to be conducted on the one warm weekend of the quarter, the first day of NSBW.

**Activities planned for the next 30 days:** We have now rescheduled with **Meeks Bay Marina for Saturday, June 14th at 9:00 a.m.** I have asked South Shore to commit a couple of their VE's as this is a "joint" event. An additional VSC station is planned **Sunday, June 29th Lake Forest Boatramp at 9:00 a.m.**

**VSC COUNT YTD: 44\***

**VSC COUNT PYTD: 146\***

**-DIVISION 12 EAST BAY: (Richard Scheuerman SO-VE)**

**NO REPORT SUBMITTED**

**VSC COUNT YTD: 110\***

**VSC COUNT PYTD: 76\***

\*As shown in AUXINFO thru May 31, 2008.

## **VSC Calendar**

- VSC Mega-Weeks- ENTIRE month of June
- National Marina Day-August 9<sup>th</sup>
- Vessel examiner Class at the PCA Fair August 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>-Coast Guard Island

## **District Statistics\***

**A total of 373 VSC's were performed throughout D11NR during NSBW.**

**YTD DISTRICT VSC COUNT: 2055\*      PYTD DISTRICT VSC COUNT: 2583\***

We are **27%** of the District goal of 7,500 VSC's and **79%** of 2007 production. Stats from AUXINFO\* indicate that 1170 or **57%** of our VSC's are First Time VSC's. In addition 925 or **45%** are High Risk VSC's.

\*As shown in AUXINFO thru May 2008.

## **District/National News**

-Please pass the word that once again the Vessel Examiner class is coming to PCA Fair over the weekend of August 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. The 2-day class includes the final exam and a VSC demo on a vessel. Many handouts will be provided. This class is a great bargain at \$5.00 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 and review the material prior to class. A copy of the VSC Manual is available for download on the D11NR Vessel Examiner website:

<http://rbsafety.d11nuscgaux.info/ve.html>. Additional arrangements can 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).

-Division 6 has been invited to supply VSC information for the July VSC Newsletter "Division VSC Spotlight."

-Because of the many emails I've received about the inflatable lifejackets, I'm reprinting the LATEST information available:

"Inflatable life jackets with the "WEAR IT" logo on the back that are to be used by qualified Auxiliary VE's and RBS-PV's are expected to arrive at ANSC per the following schedule: 3500 pfd's in June, and 3600 pfd's in July for a Total of 7100 PFD's.

ANSC will distribute them to DCP's based on AUXDATA's Division-level counts of qualified Auxiliary VE's and RBS-PV's, for further distribution to FC's for appropriate program use at field level.

These life jackets have been purchased with Coast Guard funds and therefore have to be treated and tracked like Coast Guard property that is provided to Auxiliary units. Further, there is an additional element of program accountability that requires annual reporting to the Program Operations

Branch of the Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety (CG-54222) for three years.

As ANSC completes the distribution of each of these shipments, it will notify all regions of such on a Division-by-Division basis. Upon receipt at the Flotilla level, the life jackets shall be tracked and reported in accordance with regional guidelines for the reporting of Coast Guard property in the custody of Auxiliary units. In December of 2008, 2009, and 2010, the DCP shall also be responsible for reporting the distribution status of the life jackets directly to CG-54222".

Source: LCDR Kathryn Dunbar USCG

The vessel examiners for the Power Squadron will also be receiving the exact same pfd's.

**-A word about NAVRULES:**

“All vessels 12 Meters (39.4 feet) in length and longer operating on Inland Waters with federal jurisdiction still need to carry a copy of the "Navigation Rules International/Inland". This has been interpreted as meaning the actual book or the printable version from the internet from the Coast Guard because of the "available for ready reference" requirement in the rule. Vessels on "**Sole State Waters**" are **not** required to have a copy of the NAVRULES on board unless there is a state law that requires it. A binder with informational sheets included sounds like an excellent idea and is strictly voluntary and not required by any federal rule or regulation. “

George R Bores, BC-VTR

**-I don't believe this is an issue in D11NR, but I was asked to forward this information:**

“A question came up regarding the VSC policy which prohibits conducting a VSC on a foreign vessel. Apparently there are numerous vessels from other countries, mostly Canadian in D13 and D9, D1, various in D7, D14, D11 that the Auxiliary would like and are doing safety checks on. Legal has researched this concern and made the following determination:

According to CG Policy and the Vessel Safety Check manual, Auxiliarists are prohibited from performing voluntary inspections on foreign vessels. If they were to do these inspections contrary to CG policy, the Auxiliarists could be found to be out of the scope of their duty. If they are out of the scope of their duty they most likely would not receive protections for liability and any injuries they incur might not be covered.

Please ensure that vessel examiners do not conduct vessel inspections on foreign vessels. If there is a genuine need to conduct such inspections, then that need must be clearly documented, justified, and communicated up the Chain of Leadership for the possibility of a policy change.”

Source: CDR Valerian F. Welicka

Office of Auxiliary & Boating Safety (CG-542)



Saturday May 17<sup>th</sup>, was the kick-off date for **National Safe Boating Week (NSBW)**, along with CPT. Swatland, and many other high profile representatives from Cal Boating, BOAT/US, The National Safe Boating Council, and many local Sheriff and Fire Depts., I was invited to help kickoff of the summer campaign of the 2008 “**WEAR IT CALIFORNIA**” life jacket program at the Stockton Ports Stadium in Stockton. As in 2007, I performed a VSC on the vessel and participated in many photo ops. This year, as in 2007, the “**WEAR IT CALIFORNIA**” boat crew will distribute over 700 free inflatable life jackets throughout the Delta. This program sponsored by the Coast Guard, Cal Boating, Yamaha, and the National Safe Boating Council is credited with saving 4 lives and has helped increase life jacket usage in the Delta from 6% in to 2006 to over 13% in 2007. Similar results are expected for 2008. I understand that a similar pilot program is also planned in the Nashville, Tennessee area. For photos, and more information on the program including a schedule of appearances of the vessel throughout the Delta area, click on the “**Wear it California**” link or on either of “**The National Safe Boating Council**” link on your D11NR Vessel Examiner website: <http://rbsafety.d11nuscgaux.info/ve.html>. California and Utah along with the following states: Tennessee, Ohio, Alaska, Arizona, Hawaii, Missouri, Connecticut, and Indiana support this important National outreach program. Let's **all** work together for our safety, 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!



**-A reminder about performing VSC's on the water:**

The Coast Guard recently received a complaint that an Auxiliary facility was conducting Boarding's. I want to remind our Vessel Examiners, coxswains and crew persons to conduct VSCs either on shore (while the boat is on the trailer), or at a dock/marina, and not be performing VSC's underway or at raft-ups. This is clearly spelled out in the Vessel Safety Check Manual under “Conducting the Vessel

Safety Check” on page 8, available for download/viewing from your D11NR website at: <http://rbsafety.d11nuscgaux.info/ve.html>. By not performing VSC’s underway we will avoid any misperception that we are doing a boarding and remove any possibility of injury while “boarding” another vessel.

-Once again in time for NSBW, Kevin O’Leary of the Bay and Delta Yachtsman Magazine has written an excellent article in the May issue about the VSC program. This year, in addition to the VSC program, Kevin spotlights two examiners from 10-02; Tony Leonardi and Bill Correll, and two examiners from the Power Squadron; Don Webb and Joe Pustizzi while performing VSC’s for the Sacramento Bayliner Yacht Club. If you haven’t seen the magazine, the May issue is worth a look. It can be purchased at West Marine and many other marina outlets. The Bay and Delta Yachtsman Magazine has and continues to support RBS and specifically the VSC program.

-Phil Grove DSO-PV has announced that he will have a ½ day Program Visitor class at the August PCA Fair. For more information about the class and scheduling, you can contact Phil at: [groventer@aol.com](mailto:groventer@aol.com).

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

**-Please share this report with your FSO-VE’s and local examiners. In addition to other important information, you can always find a copy on the District website:** <http://rbsafety.d11nuscgaux.info/ve.html>.

**-As always, if Joaquin or I can be of ANY assistance to any DCP or SO-VE, I hope there will be no hesitation to contact us. Working together we can once again make D11NR one of the top VSC performers nationwide for 2008!**

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael J. Lauro DSO-VE

Joaquin Duran ADSO-VE

