



**Homeland  
Security**

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

*Serving Northern California, Nevada, Utah*



# Vessel Safety Check Newsletter

**April 2008**

**Volume 5 Number 2**

**Mike Lauro DSO-VE Joaquin Duran ADSO-VE**

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.

## **DSO Comments**

**By Mike Lauro**



I'd like to congratulate the recent graduates from the Vessel Examiner class at the PCA Fair. A list of the graduates are 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 the recent D/TRAIN in Modesto and congratulations to the top VSC performers in D11NR! Their names are also listed further in the newsletter. Remember, this training and award conference is for YOU-the member!

Next years conference will be held in Rohnert Park at the Doubletree Hotel. Congratulations to the members listed further in the newsletter who have performed 40+ VSC's and will be receiving a certificate of appreciation from the National Commodore at an upcoming flotilla meeting.

Recently, there has been much confusion by several members when performing both Non-Operational Facility and Operational Facility inspections. Rather than go into great detail here, I've asked Irene Wetzel DSO-CS to add an excellent power point and the supplement manual to the YOUR VE website. You will find the short 7-page manual listed at: <http://rbsafety.d11nuscgaux.info/ve.html>. Please download it and print it out. I'm told the supplement will be included in the new VSC Manual when it's released later this year. Also remember to use the current 7003 or 7008 form. For your convenience the current 7003 and 7008 are also on

the website. When completed, the No-Op Facility is submitted directly to me and the Op-Facility is sent directly to the DIRAUX office. Remember that PWC's can ONLY be examined as an OP-Facility on the 7008 form. My address will be included at the end of these comments.

NOW is the time to start formulating plans for NSBW, 17-23 May. 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. In the meantime, lets get out and start performing some VSC's. As Always, your comments and thoughts are always welcome. Send you NON-OP Facility inspections to:

Mike Lauro DSO-VE  
710 Live Oak Way  
Lodi, CA. 95242  
[sumfun@juno.com](mailto:sumfun@juno.com)

### **ADS Comments**

By Joaquin Duran



This months comments will refer to #4 of the 7012 form—PFD's. How do you examine PFD's—now referred to as LIFEJACKETS?

Lifejackets must be Coast Guard Approved in good and serviceable condition, and of appropriate size for the intended user. PFD's should not be stowed in plastic bags, in locked or closed compartments or have other gear stowed on top of them. Wearable PFDs must be readily accessible, meaning the intended wearer must be able to put it on in a reasonable amount of time in an emergency (vessel sinking, on fire, etc.)

All vessels (including canoes and kayaks of any length) must be equipped with one Type I, II, III, or V PFD for each person aboard. Federal law does not require PFDs on racing shells, rowing skulls, and racing kayaks; state laws vary. Boats 16 feet and longer must also be equipped with one throwable Type IV. Throwable devices must be immediately available

for use—NOT stored in any compartment. Type IV devices include buoyant cushions, ring buoys, and horseshoe buoys. The typical cushions are typically 15 by 15 by 2 inches and have grab straps. Although not required, except in Nevada on vessel 26'+, you may recommend attaching a retrieving line.

A TYPE I PFD, or OFF-SHORE LIFE JACKET though not the most comfortable provides the most buoyancy—22lbs. for an adult and 11 lbs. for a child. It is effective for all waters, especially open, rough, or remote waters where rescue may be delayed.

A TYPE II PFD, NEAR-SHORE BUOYANT VEST is intended for calm, inland water or where there is a good chance of quick rescue. An adult size device provides 15 ½ lbs. of buoyancy, a medium child size provides 11 lbs. Infant and small child sizes each provide at least 7 pounds buoyancy.

A TYPE III PFD generally the most comfortable, is available in many styles, colors, and sizes. It is good for calm, inland

waters, or where there is a good chance of quick rescue. The Type III has the same minimum buoyancy as a Type II pfd. A water skier is considered on board the vessel and a PFD is required for the purposes of compliance with the PFD carriage requirements. It is advisable and recommended for a skier to wear a PFD designed to withstand the impact of hitting the water at high speed. "Impact Class" marking on the label refers to PFD strength, not personal protection. Most state laws require skiers and PWC operators to wear a PFD with an impact rating. Float coats, fishing vests, and vests designed with features suitable for various sports activities are also examples of this type PFD.

A TYPE V PFD, or SPECIAL USE DEVICE is intended for specific activities and may be carried instead of another PFD only if used according to the approval condition on the label. Type V PFDs also have use restrictions marked on them which must be observed. Instruct the boater if a Type V PFD is to be counted toward minimum carriage requirements, it must be worn. Some Type V devices provide significant hypothermia protection. Varieties

include deck suits, work vests, board sailing vests, and Hybrid PFDs.

A TYPE V HYBRID INFLATABLE PFD is normally the least bulky of all PFD types. It contains a small amount of inherent buoyancy, and an inflatable chamber. It's performance is equal to or better than a Type I PFD (as noted on the PFD label). These usually apply to children of specific ages, and certain boats and boating operations. Approvals are based on the child's weight. Federal law requires children under 13 years of age to wear a PFD when underway unless below deck or in an enclosed cabin. Within the boundaries of a state that has a PFD requirement for a child, that state's requirement will be adopted.

California law requires 11 year and younger, unless in an enclosed cabin. Nevada and Utah is 12 years of age and younger unless in an enclosed cabin.

The material for this has been supplied by "The Federal Requirements and Safety Tips" (2006) and "The California ABC's of Boating Booklet" (2008). As always, your comments and thoughts are always welcome. Please feel free to contact me at: [duranjp@sbcglobal.net](mailto:duranjp@sbcglobal.net).

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

**1-Coxswains on Non-Operational Facilities 12 meters (39.4 ft) or more in length must own and maintain:**

- a. A Quick Reference Navigation Rules card.
- b. Navigation Rules publication, COMDTINST M16672.2.
- c. Quick Reference & Navigation Rules publications COMDTINST M16672.2.
- d. Coxswains are not required to own Navigation Rules Publications.

## 2-A PWC Operational Facility;

- a. Must carry a CG Auxiliary or Patrol Ensign.
- b. Must have at 30' of topline.
- c. Does not need a VHF-FM radio.
- d. Does not need a throwable PFD (Type IV).

## Congratulations!

Congratulations to ALL the following examiners who have performed 40 or more VSC's during 2007 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	Phillip M. Cannon	01-07
Stephen R. Salmon	01-07	Robert A. Albain	03-01
Charles M. Duncan Jr.	03-09	Hannelore Maddox	03-09
George T. Cusak	03-10	Paul S. Verveniotis	04-06
Jeffery L. Wilcox	04-06	Joaquin P. Duran	04-09
Mark Mushet	04-09	Michael F. Nolan	04-09
Charles C. Lafferty	05-01	Curtis S. Han	05-02
Charles E. Mc Carty	05-03	Wilfred A. Sumner II	05-05
Gary N. Murray	05-05	Shirley C. Maxson	05-05
Jim D. Blackburn	05-07	Paul K. Clausen	05-07
Scott L. Galloway	06-07	Charles A. Poplinger	08-07
Michael J. Lauro	10-02	Joseph M. Madden	10-02
Michael A. Rafatti	10-02	Anthony D. Leonardi	10-03
Marion A. Rider	10-03	Phillip E. Grove	10-06
Leslie J. Pearlman	11-01	Keith A. White	11-03
Rickey A Thomas	11-05		

## Congratulations!

Congratulations to ALL the following examiners who have performed 20 or more VSC's during 2008\*:

Robert J. Aston	01-04	Simone H. Adair	01-07
Joaquin P. Duran	04-09	Michael F. Nolan	04-09
Michael J. Lauro	10-02	Phillip E. Grove	10-06

This brings our total to 6 examiners reaching this plateau!! This is approximately 2% of the total District examiner base. 2007 had 3 examiners or 1% 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 2008

**♥Sailing Lingo Question-** Answer can be found in another location in the newsletter

Are you an expert sailor?

Openings along the edges of a ship's deck are called:

- a. Deck holes
- b. Sniggle-wiffers
- c. Scuppers

**♥Congratulations!**

Congratulations to the following students who passed the Vessel Examiner class held at the recent PCA Training Fair over the weekend of February 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>.

<b>Kathi Karish</b>	<b>03-03</b>	<b>Kenneth Nash</b>	<b>03-09</b>
<b>James Higuchi</b>	<b>04-09</b>	<b>Ronald Kram</b>	<b>05-05</b>
<b>Deana Mc Allister</b>	<b>08-08</b>	<b>Harmen Lyzenga</b>	<b>11-05</b>
<b>Robert Niccum</b>	<b>12-03</b>		

Please provide assistance to help these future examiners complete their qualification! Thanks to everyone especially Joaquin Duran ADSO-VE who provided instructional assistance to support the class. Please recommend new members for the August class!

**♥Congratulations!**

Congratulations to the D11NR top VSC performers for 2007 who received recognition at D/Train:

<b>1<sup>st</sup> place: Phillip E. Grove</b>	<b>354 VSC's</b>	<b>Flotilla 10-06</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> place: Anthony D. Leonardi</b>	<b>263 VSC's</b>	<b>Flotilla 10-03</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> place: Joaquin P. Duran</b>	<b>230 VSC's</b>	<b>Flotilla 04-09</b>

**GREAT JOB!**

**♥Welcome Aboard and Welcome Back!**

With the addition of these 9 new examiners for 2008, our examiner base total is now 251 active examiners! This represents about 17% of our total District membership. This information is supplied by the Director's office, as examiners are qualified.

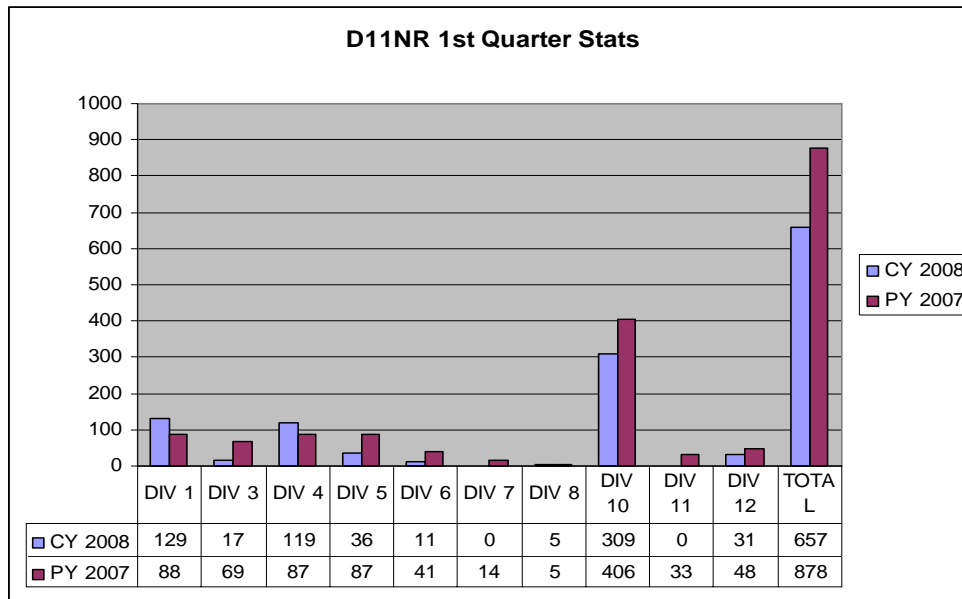
<b>Lex J. Byers*</b>	<b>01-04</b>	<b>Cheryl A. Warner</b>	<b>01-09</b>
<b>Steven C. Allen</b>	<b>03-10</b>	<b>Robert E. Gorham*</b>	<b>05-02</b>
<b>Margaret R. Balch</b>	<b>05-07</b>	<b>Pamela K. Allen*</b>	<b>05-07</b>
<b>James A. Linnerman*</b>	<b>10-03</b>	<b>Arthur D. King</b>	<b>10-03</b>
<b>Sherwin P. Harris*</b>	<b>12-02</b>		

\*Re-certification

**♥VSC Calendar**

- National Safe Boating Week-May 17-23
- VSC Mega-Weeks-ENTIRE month of JUNE
- National Marina Day-August 8<sup>th</sup>
- Vessel examiner Class at the PCA Fair August 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>-Coast Guard Island

## Division Statistics\*

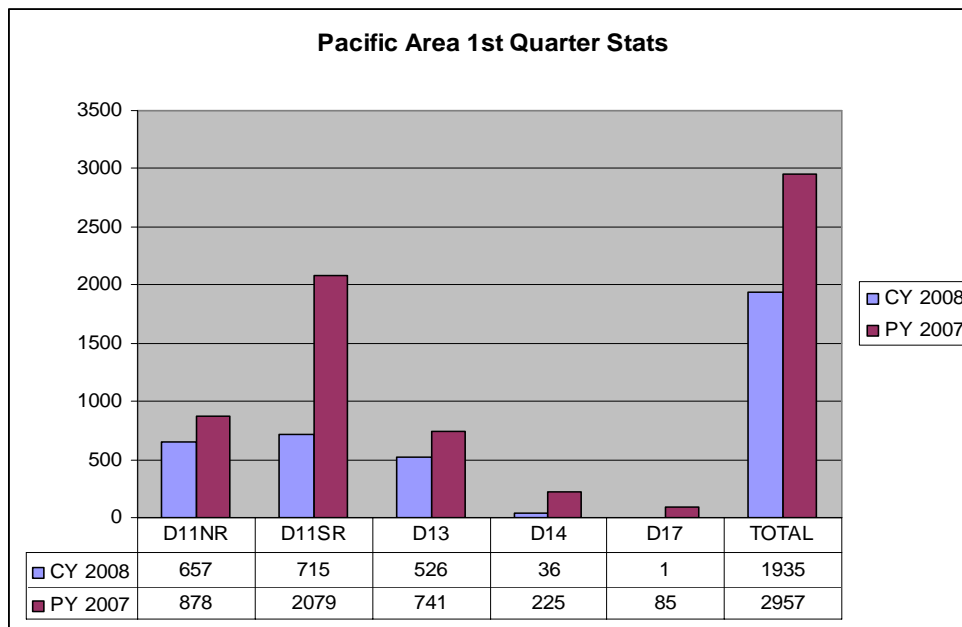


The goal for D11NR for 2008 is **7,500 VSC's**. We are **9%** of our goal for the year and **75%** of 2007 production! The data source is AUXINFO. PLEASE be certain that all stats are reported MONTHLY using the CURRENT Form 7038 to your FSO-IS so you and your unit(s) will receive proper credit.

Preliminary stats from AUXINFO\* indicates that **292** or **44%** of our VSC's are First Time VSC's. In addition **245** or **37%** are High Risk VSC's.

\*Statistics as shown in AUXINFO thru March 2008

## Pacific Area Statistics\*



\*Statistics as shown in AUXINFO thru March 2008

## **Division Spotlight**



We, of Division One are like all other Divisions, right? Not even close! With our location on or near San Francisco Bay, we face unique challenges unlike most inland-based Divisions. Typical vessel examiners encounter "average" vessels, likely in the 18-26' range, mostly power. Vessels in our Division tend to be a mixed breed of sail and power centering on 24-48', with the occasional larger, ocean-going mega yachts nearing 65'. These big guys tend to take a good hour or so to check, and only if the skipper or owner has their act together on safety requirements. Vessels this size, capable of international destinations, need to consider: EPIRB's, DSC VHF, offshore rafts, immersion suits, and rocket flares. Many of our Division VE's are also cross-qualified in Marine Safety, Program Visitors, Ferry Auditors, AtoN verifiers and even Coast Guard force multiplying watch-standers. Safety, for all of us, is not just a buzzword, we are proud of the services we offer. Rick Saber SO-VE Div. One

## **National and District News**

### **National News**

The winner of a one-week berth on the USCG Barque "Eagle" was Auxiliarist Timothy Engrav of Flotilla 8-7, District 9-CR. Tim performed 20 VSC's-in two outings-in September!

Once again, West Marine is offering a 10% discount coupon on safety equipment to boaters who receive a VSC. Copies of the coupon can also be found on YOUR VE website: <http://rbsafety.d11nuscgaux.info/ve.html>. This is the corrected coupon. The original coupons were misprinted.

The newest edition of For Safety's Sake, Volume I - 2008 has been released. This new issue was released on February 26th and is available for downloading or viewing from YOUR VE website: <http://rbsafety.d11nuscgaux.info/ve.html>. Or from the National V Departments Newsletter page at: <http://safetyseal.net/Newsletters/>. In this issue is: The 60th Anniversary Winner, New Outreach Opportunities, Wear It: The Theme for 2008, Coastal Warning Display Signals, VSC Mega Weeks and more!

### **Coast Guard to Emphasize Life Jacket Wear**

A key outcome of the Coast Guard's Recreational Boating Safety program is to reduce loss of life on the water. A major component of that program is to convince boaters to wear their life jackets while on the water. Various media campaigns have been utilized in the past without a major shift in the desired outcome.

A Vessel Safety Check (VSC) provides the vessel examiner an opportunity to educate the boater on the value and importance of life jacket wear. During the VSC, the criteria for selecting, sizing, and inspection of life jackets is reviewed and demonstrated to the boater.

Public education courses are another venue to demonstrate the variety of life jackets available. Of paramount interest is the inflatable life jacket which offers the boater a comfortable and reliable life saving option.

Public affairs activities, such as safety exhibits at boat shows, provide another venue to illustrate to the public the variety of life jackets available in the market place.

The Coast Guard's Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety firmly believes that our vessel examiners, public educators and public affairs representatives should be role models for life jacket wear and are encouraging them to wear their life jackets during vessel safety checks, public education classes, and public affair events. As an incentive for demonstrating the "right behavior" on and around the water, inflatable life jackets branded with the "**Wear It**" logo will be made available (on a loaner basis) to each Flotilla.

Inflatable life jackets will be distributed to local units which will be responsible for the custody, maintenance, and utilization of this equipment and annual reporting of the local inventory through respective chain of command to the Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety, Program Operations Branch (CG- 54222).

The expectation is that they will be leveraged to provide the maximum possible exposure to support the wearing of life jackets.

Peter Urgola, DC-V  
USCG Auxiliary

### **District News**

A question recently surfaced about: *As vessel examiners are we able to participate in the Zebra/Quagga mussel inspection program?* The answer is...it depends. If you are simply educating the public on the Quagga and Zebra issues while acting as an Auxiliarist and doing a vessel safety check, no problem. Any type of "inspection" that would support a law enforcement type of activity is out of the question. If an Auxiliarist is in uniform (or Polo Shirt) and wants to be trained to perform some kind of "official inspection" on a citizen's boat, that would **not** be authorized. So if any lakes require a vessel to pass an inspection before launching, examiners should **not** participate.

Phil Grove DSO-PV has announced that he will have a  $\frac{1}{2}$  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).

Gary Murray FSO-VE 5-5 is **ALWAYS** looking for vessel examiners to help perform VSC's at Lake Sonoma. Interested examiners can contact him at: [dutcher@sonic.net](mailto:dutcher@sonic.net)

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>.



1<sup>st</sup>, I've also asked Irene Wetzel DSO-CS to add my link to the AUXINFO page instantly showing Division/District VSC activity. This page is updated every Monday morning. By simply clicking on the AUXINFO link, you will have local VSC production instantly available.

Simply: If you LEFT click on your Division, it will show Flotilla activity. If you LEFT click on the Flotilla, it will show you individual flotilla member activity. There is a wealth of additional information available on this page.

2<sup>nd</sup>, 2 new power points and the Facility Manual Supplement to the VE Manual have been added to the Vessel Examiner page: <http://rbsafety.d11nuscgaux.info/ve.html> They can be found under: "**Qualification and Study Opportunities**". The 1st is: The 1st is: VSC Review on Power Point and the 2nd is: Facility Review on Power Point. In addition, the manual is also located under: **D11NR VESSEL EXAMINER INFORMATION**.

3<sup>rd</sup>, the "How to Perform a VSC on a PWC and SUB" have been refreshed reflecting new information.

4<sup>th</sup>, is a recent photo of Bill Correll and Tony Leonardi from 10-03 along with the Sacramento Bayliner Club mugging for the camera proudly displaying their recent VSC decals.

In the works is a photo page and many new features. If you have any VSC related photos, please send them to me. With over 1250 views in the last 3 months, the site is apparently being used as an informational resource for which it was designed. If you have ANY ideas or suggestions, please let me know.

### **Division Staff Officers**

SO-VE 1	Richard A. Saber	<a href="mailto:captcrunch@mindspring.com">captcrunch@mindspring.com</a>	SO-VE 7	Riley Turpin	<a href="mailto:rnturpin@peoplepc.com">rnturpin@peoplepc.com</a>
SO-VE 3	James Goff	<a href="mailto:james.goff@att.net">james.goff@att.net</a>	SO-VE 8	Doug Pohlson	<a href="mailto:dougs@pacific.net">dougs@pacific.net</a>
SO-VE 4	Joaquin P. Duran	<a href="mailto:duranjp@sbcglobal.net">duranjp@sbcglobal.net</a>	SO-VE 10	Michael J. Lauro	<a href="mailto:sumfun@juno.com">sumfun@juno.com</a>
SO-VE 5	Robert Smith	<a href="mailto:nanapaah@hotmail.com">nanapaah@hotmail.com</a>	SO-VE 11	Ray E. Wise	<a href="mailto:rayellen@sbcglobal.net">rayellen@sbcglobal.net</a>
SO-VE 6	Stanley T. Wolfberg	<a href="mailto:s_wolfberg@yahoo.com">s_wolfberg@yahoo.com</a>	SO-VE 12	Richard Scheuerman	<a href="mailto:chevroids@comcast.net">chevroids@comcast.net</a>

Answer to Sailing Lingo Question: "c"

Answer to VSC questions:

Question 1-"b" See 7003 FACILITY INSPECTION FORM

Question 2-"b" See 7008 PWC FACILITY INSPECTION FORM

