



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



Vessel Safety Check Newsletter

May 2010

Volume 7 Number 4

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DSO Comments

By Mike Lauro



I'd like to remind everyone that a week prior to National Safe Boating Week (NSBW), the **WEAR IT**

CALIFORNIA! campaign for the Delta area kicks-off this month on Saturday May 15th at Discovery Park in Sacramento. NSBW kicks-off on Saturday May 22nd thru 28th followed by VSC Mega-Weeks continues through the month of June culminating on July 5th. In addition, let's not forget that National Marina Day has been changed to Saturday June 12th.

I'm told the **WEAR IT CALIFORNIA!** campaign will focus more on PA events at Delta area marina's rather than on the water activities. This helps create a great opportunity for a unified message. A schedule of **WEAR IT CALIFORNIA** events is further in the newsletter. NSBW is an opportunity to use the ICS training we've received over recent years to plan VSC/PA activities or the concepts we learned at the RBS

workshop a D/Train. This is also an opportunity to involve the FSO staff and ALL flotilla members at VSC stations that were planned and scheduled at the April Flotilla meeting by the FSO-VE. Hopefully, the FSO-MA ordered materials and the FSO-PA has SEVERAL PA announcements planned.

In addition to the PA table, CURRENT handout materials, VSC decals, and forms need to be distributed as soon as possible to the examiners so they may familiarize themselves with changes in the materials and laws.

This is also an opportunity to review our etiquette and VSC greeting for VSC and PA activities as we gear-up for the summer VSC activities. More can be found on your D11NR VE website:

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

During VSC Mega-weeks, weekly or bi-monthly VSC ramp stations should be scheduled in the areas where there is the highest concentration of our target audience; trailer boats, PWC's, canoes, and kayaks. Boating accidents and death statistics have shown that trailer boaters and vessels less than

26' in general are involved in the majority of accidents. But, that is not to say that we still shouldn't provide the service to larger vessels at yacht club safety days.

Boaters don't need to be lectured or supplied a huge volume of material or unnecessarily detained from launching. Most contacts should not require more than 10 minutes at the ramp. Please staff each event accordingly. When at a ramp, each participating examiner should be able to produce about 8-10 VSC's, 4 or 5 at a yacht club safety day. That way it's worth everyone's time to participate. ALL participants need to wear the same uniform, which should have been specified in the early planning meetings. Please review Tony Budlong ADSO-VE uniform comments from last month and Chapter 10 of the Auxiliary Manual. In addition, we should also be wearing our **WEAR IT!** pfd's.

Although not all examiners may be able to participate at each outing,

make certain that that all examiners have an opportunity to participate at all outings throughout the year. If you are short on personnel, consider partnering with another flotilla, division or possibly the local Power Squadron. Finally, consider scheduling a pot-luck BBQ and possibly consider inviting the local sheriff or Power Squadron. As with all jobs, the job is not complete until the paperwork is finished! In addition to turning in your 7038's through the IS system ASAP, please don't forget to turn in your VSC stats for NSBW to your Flotilla or Dvision NSBW chairperson so you receive credit for your hard work! Finally, thanks to Phil Grove FC 10-5 for inviting me for a visit to observe VSC's at Millerton Lake on Saturday April 17th . In addition to some good fellowship on Friday evening, I observed some very professional activity at a beautiful lake on Saturday.

As always, your comments are welcome.

ADSOS Comments

By Joaquin Duran



Fellow examiners, as we approach the start of another boating season, I'd like to take a minute of discuss the **Recommended**

and Discussion Items on the right side of the VSC form 7012. At the completion of the Vessel Safety Check, and after covering the required items, the vessel examiner should take a few minutes to highlight the following items :

-Accident reporting - if loss of life, person missing or requiring medical treatment beyond first aid report to state and local authorities within 48 hours. If damage to boat over \$2000 report within 10 days.

-Offshore operations - carry additional equipment beyond federal requirements e.g. type I pfd's, Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon, inflatable life raft.

-Nautical charts - carry properly updated charts having the largest possible scale.

-Survival tips and First Aid Kit -

Highly recommend boaters take a first aid course and carry spare medications in their first aid kit, and suggest a CPR class to assist in medical emergencies. Be prepared for hypothermia.

-Fueling and Fuel Management -

Emphasize the 1/3 rule (1/3 to go, 1/3 to return and 1/3 as reserve. Take appropriate precautions when fueling, take portable tanks off the vessel before fueling, close all hatches, extinguish smoking materials, turn off engines, all electrical equipment, radios, etc.; keep the nozzle in contact with the tank and wipe up any spilled fuel.

-Float plan - Explain what it is and suggest leaving a copy with a friend, relative or local marina.

-Insurance considerations-Some states require proof of insurance before registering a vessel. The boater might get a discount if he/she can prove has taken a boating safety class or passed the vessel safety check.

-Boating Check list - the back of the VSC form can provide a good checklist to review prior to departure.

-Boating Safety Classes - Offer advice of any upcoming classes offered by local flotillas through the District.

-Weather and Sea Conditions - Boaters should check local weather forecast before leaving the dock. As always, your comments are welcome.

 **Welcome Aboard and Welcome Back!**

Leon F. Artac*	01-05	Karen Mercado**	03-03
Randel Mc Cormick	05-03	Mary K. Dee **	05-07
Wallace A. Smith**	06-10	Steven Bradon**	10-02
Linda Bradon**	10-02		

*Re-certification

**from the February 2010 PCA class!

With the addition of these 7 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.

 **VSC Calendar-2010**

-National Safe Boating Week- May 22nd-28th

-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.

Congratulations!

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

Jerel Brekov	01-04	Billy Ray	05-02
Michael D. Mirata	05-02	Richard L. Allen	06-07
Steven Bradon	10-02	Timothy J. Mandel	10-02
Anthony D. Leonardi	10-03	Thomas B. Henderson	11-01
Alex C. Belleque	11-05	Fred A. Goodwin	12-03

This brings our total to 20 examiners to date 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 April 30, 2010

Wear It California! Schedule - *New Feature!*

-May 15	Discovery Park	Sacramento
-May 29	B&W Resort	Isleton
-Jun 12	Buckley Cove	Stockton
-Jun 26	Boathouse Marina	Walnut Grove
-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.

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

1-To be acceptable for a VSC decal, an approved backfire flame control must:

- a. Be tightly secured with flame tight connections.
- b. Be readily accessible.
- c. Be cleaned with gasoline or other petrochemical cleanser.
- d. Be loosely secured to the air intake to allow sufficient air to the carburetor.

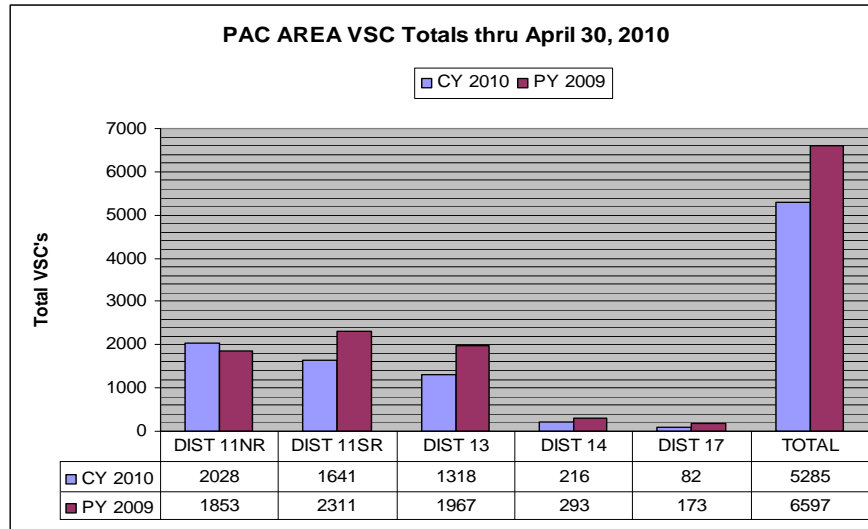
2-A PWC Operational Facility:

- Must carry a CG Auxiliary or Patrol Ensign.
- Must carry at least 30' of towline.
- Does not need a VHF-FM radio.
- Does not need a throwable PFD (Type IV).

Bet You didn't Know...

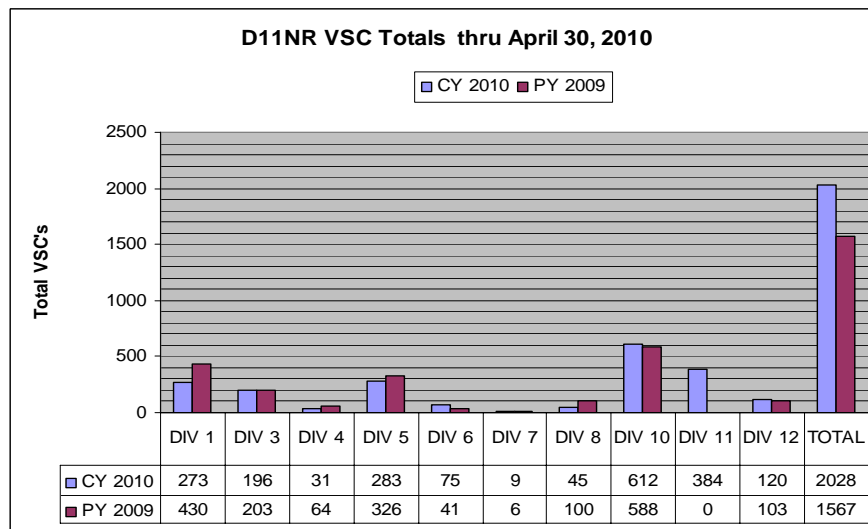
Common entertainment has always included playing cards. However in prior times, there was a tax levied when purchasing playing cards but only applicable to the "Ace of Spades." To avoid paying the tax, people would purchase 51 cards instead. Yet, since most games require 52 cards, these people were thought to be stupid or dumb because they weren't "playing with a full deck."

PAC AREA 2010 Statistics*



*Statistics as shown in AUXINFO thru April 30, 2010

D11NR 2010 Statistics*



The goal for D11NR for 2010 is **10,000 VSC's**. We are **20%** of our goal for the year and **129%** 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 **967** or **48%** of our VSC's are First Time VSC's. In addition **1,256** or **62%** are High Risk VSC's.

*Statistics as shown in AUXINFO thru April 30, 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.

-I'm pleased to announce the new tri-fold 2-sided VSC brochure introduced at D/Train that may be used for VSC stations, Program Visitor racks, and other PA events. You will find the brochure listed on your D11NR Vessel Examiner website:

<http://rbsafety.d11nuscgaux.info/ve/ve.html> under **VE FORMS** as ML-5 "**Boat Smart from the Start**" marked "NEW". The brochure is done in Microsoft WORD and is easily modified for your use.

If you go to the "**For Information Contact**" section, you can highlight and remove my name and replace it with yours, and in most cases keep the same size font and centering. You can do the same for the phone number and email address.

Lastly, this is best printed on #67 weight paper, but, you can also use #20 regular or colored copy paper and also print it in black and white to save on color ink. To print, if you simply print one side and then flip it over and re-run the copy having both pages on one sheet. Another option is your local stationary store copy service.

Since we don't have anything from ANSC specifically for the VSC program, I hope you will consider using this new tool to help to promote our important program.

-Since D/Train, I've received a considerable amount of emails requesting the new orange 3" x 4" kayak/canoe lost and found ID stickers being distributed by the Coast Guard. The "stickers" are in a very limited supply **and have limited distribution thru the Auxiliary**, and thru the CG PA dept. to local CG stations. However, with little effort, I found an option that will work in their place. AVERY makes a 3"x 4" waterproof blank white polyester label # 5524. The labels come in a box of 50 sheets with 6 labels per sheet-300 total. They retail for \$49.99 at stationary stores-about \$.16 per label. They stick firmly and feature durable construction that allows them to repel water and moisture. They also resist scuffs, tears and smudges so they remain easy to read. As with the orange sticker, using a black Sharpie, the label could be made while performing the VSC on a SUB.

As a reminder, a VSC in addition to verifying equipment is a one-on-one education with the boater. This is especially true when examining a SUB. So, if you don't provide the label, along with other recommendations on the 7012A form, you should certainly bring it to the kayaker's attention.

-Distribution has **ended** for the recently announced Paddle Smart ID decals. If your request was received, you should receive the decals within 5-7 days. If you missed out, the decals were distributed to examiners on a 1st come 1st served basis until the supply is exhausted. Per instructions provided to me, these are only to be distributed when performing a VSC on a kayak, canoe or another small vessel (**S**port **U**tility **B**oat). Because of the limited quantity, please do not distribute at boat shows or other PA events. In addition, please use in conjunction with the new 7012A. If you do not have the form, you can find it on your D11NR Vessel Examiner website: <http://rbsafety.d11nuscgaux.info/ve/ve.html>. In addition, this is a great opportunity to promote our new Paddlesports America kayaking and canoe course.

-When performing a VSC on a SUB (kayak or canoe) with the new 7012A, please give the boater the 7012A form and record your information on a 7038 separate from normal VSC activity. At the end of the end, I'll need to know 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.

-**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

National News

-We have posted a new virtual VSC to the public web site, www.safetyseal.net. It is primarily intended for use by the public but might be of value to some e-learner VE students. Click on the virtual VSC link and follow the instructions. Please note that it **ONLY** covers federal requirements and does not cover OPFAC inspections!

Source: Pete Urgola

-**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>. Hard copies of the coupon should be available in stores prior to NSBW. 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.

-**OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND** at Walmart, K-Mart, Ace Hardware, West Marine, and Bass Pro Shops, are just some of the retail stores that have given our PA Officers space for their boating safety displays for National Safe Boating Week. With the 2010 campaign ahead of us, let's plan to use these stores as opportunities to meet the boating public and support them on safe boating practices. Now is the time to contact the managers of these establishments and secure a spot during NSBW. Some of these stores may allow us to use a part of their parking lot to perform VSCs. Other opportunities abound to reach the boating public, via the media. Download the statistics from the National Safe Boating Council website: www.safeboatingcampaign.com

to list boating accidents and fatalities for your press releases. Editors love statistics. Also, invite the TV and news media to attend your special NSBW events. Life jacket demonstrations and on-the-water rescues make great action footage for television broadcasts. Look for the free and paid resources available from the campaign site in March. Such items as Wear It stickers, decals and posters are especially favored by our younger boaters. For additional resources, download the Auxiliary Material Supply Center Catalog at <http://www.uscg.mil/auxiliary/publications/misc/DCAT.pdf>. Order through your Materials Officer. Don't forget to post your planned PA exhibits and VSC's on the campaign website for NSBW and even before the big event. Share your great ideas.
Harriet Howard, Special Assistant for NSBW

-The [National Safe Boating Council](#) and [Canadian Safe Boating Council](#) are teaming up to set a world record! We are encouraging boaters, boating safety educators and anyone else who would like to join in on the fun to participate in "[Inflatable Life Jacket World Record Day](#)." Participants from across North America will simultaneously inflate an inflatable life jacket to set an unprecedented world record. The inaugural event will be held on Thursday, May 20, 2010 at 11:00 a.m. EDT / 8:00 a.m. PDT.

World Record Day will help to usher in National Safe Boating Week, this year May 22 - 28, 2010. The goal of National Safe Boating Week is to educate and inform the boating public about boating safety, specifically life jackets. The push of inflatable life jackets has been the main focus of the campaign for the past few years.

To ensure that this event is a success, the National Safe Boating Council (NSBC) and the Canadian Safe Boating Council (CSBC) have been working with local sponsors and partners in the area. [Cabelas®](#) is the national sponsor in America, offering its stores across the country as event locations. Leland Ltd. has worked with the NSBC to offer over 1,000 CO2 cartridges to allow participants the opportunity to inflate their life jacket, but also practice re-arming techniques of inflatable life jackets. SmartBoater is helping to sponsor the event throughout Canada, bringing this important message to boaters throughout the country.

If you'd like to participate or organize a local event of your own, please visit the newly created Web site at www.ReadySetInflate.com.

We hope you can join us in this great opportunity to spread the word about life jacket safety to an international audience!

Source: Virgil Chambers

Executive Director

National Safe Boating Council

-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 21 of the VSC Manual

Question 2-"b" See the 7008 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!



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