



**Homeland
Security**

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

Serving Northern California, Nevada, Utah



Vessel Safety Check Newsletter

September 2008

Volume 5 Number 8

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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



Congratulations to the 10 recent graduates of the Vessel Examiner class at the August PCA Fair! You'll find their names listed

further in the newsletter. So that the qualification process with the recent graduates and other new examiners goes smoothly, I'd like to take minute to review the qualification process. After passing the VE exam whether in the classroom or the on-line exam, the trainee needs to complete at least 5 supervised VSC's under the guidance of a qualified examiner. The VSC's can be performed all in one outing (the preferred method) or over several outings. The qualifying examiner receives credit for these VSC's on the 7038 form with the name of the trainee and member number listed on top of the form and in the REMARKS section. The 7038 should only show VSC's performed with the trainee. All

other VSC activity should be listed on a separate 7038. In addition to the 7038, the VE portion of the District MT-2 form **MUST** be filled out **COMPLETELY** by the qualifying examiner and then returned to the trainee so the Flotilla Commander can sign and date the form who then returns it to the trainee. After making a copy, the trainee can either fax or mail the MT-2 form to the DIRAUX office. The MT-2 form along with many other aids can be found on your D11NR website:

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

The qualifying examiner's 7038 with the trainee information should be promptly submitted thru the I.S. system. It is important to note that each step must be completed correctly and in a timely manor or an unnecessary delay will be created. Once the trainee has completed the supervised exams, they can continue performing VSC's that day.

There are many possible methods to train a new examiner. Keep in mind that even though the trainee passed the written test, they may not be able to properly use the knowledge. In addition, the trainee may not possess the confidence to greet the boater or correctly complete the VSC form. With this in mind, I prefer the trainee observe me greeting the boater and observe me performing at least the 1st and 2nd exam. Under your supervision they can then perform at least the 3rd thru 5th exam, maybe more. As the trainee performs these exams, each should be critiqued away from any other VSC activity so as not to embarrass the trainee. Hopefully, each succeeding examination is an improvement over the previous Checks.

Just a couple of quick reminders: 1) All examiners need to remember to contact your FSO-VE, VFC, or FC if you plan to perform a VSC on a boat or spend hours at your favorite marina/launch ramp by yourself. This notification-not permission is so that you are covered by the Coast Guard insurance if something should happen. 2) Because of the potential of being hit by the tow vehicle or trailer, examiners should NOT be performing VSC's at the head of the ramp where trailers are entering or leaving the area. While each launch ramp is unique, a safe location would be in the

parking lot or prep area. 3) All examiners at a VSC station should dress alike and dress correctly. The FSO-VE or the person establishing the station establishes the uniform of the day. The light blue golf shirt is an excellent substitute for the tropical blue shirt. Remember NO devices are worn on a Tilly hat or on the light blue golf shirt, as these are NOT uniform items. 4) Though not required, for YOUR safety a PFD should be worn when working around any docks or climbing aboard any vessels. It may be the new inflatable type V that we just received or a type III or a float coat. 5) If you've recently changed your email address, please submit an ANSC 7028 "Change of Member Information" form through the I.S. chain so that your information in AUXDATA is correct. 6) There is still plenty of time to perform the 5 minimum VSC's to maintain your qualification this year. 7) Finally, we perform VSC's-Vessel Safety Checks, not VE's. VE's are you and I-**Vessel Examiners**".

Even though it's late in the season and water levels are dropping, let's get a crew together, get out our new PFD's, banners and other equipment and schedule a VSC station to help out the boater-that's what we agreed to do when we joined the Coast Guard Auxiliary!

As always, your comments are welcome.

ADS Comments

By Joaquin Duran



This month's comments will deal with sound producing devices. Simply, all vessels must carry a sound-producing device capable of a 4-second

blast, which can be made and heard for $\frac{1}{2}$ mile under certain circumstances such as: meeting, crossing, overtaking situations, and periods of reduced visibility. See Navigation Rules for specifics. Vessels under 39.4 feet are required to carry an efficient sound signaling device, such as a whistle, horn or other means, and to use that device to signal their intentions and/or position in periods of reduced visibility. (athletic whistles are acceptable.) Vessels over 39.4 feet are required to carry on board a whistle (athletic whistles are not acceptable.) or horn, **and a bell**. The bell must be in operating condition, with a minimum diameter of 7 7/8 inches measured at the mouth.

For PWC's, a whistle attached to the operator's PFD meets the requirement and provides a means to signal should operator be separated from the PWC.

When conducting the VSC, check for proper operation of the boat's whistle or other sound producing device(s). Have the operator test and operate the device producing a sound signal for at least four seconds.

If the vessel requires a bell, it is not required to be mounted to qualify for the decal. It should be stored so that it is readily available.

Also while conducting the VSC, time and conditions permitting, it may a good time to educate the boater on the required sound signals about: a "warning" signal, "changing direction" signal, and "restricted visibility" signals. More information on these conditions may be pointed out in "The Federal Requirements" booklet or your state boating safety handbook. As general information, portable horns and other applicable sound producing devices for boater may be purchased for as low as \$12. The VSC Manual provided all of the above information. It along with other information can be found on your D11NR website:

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

As always, your comments are welcome.

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

Are you an expert sailor?

In sailing, when something is entangled or clogged it is:

- a. Really frustrating
- b. Fouled
- c. Besmirched

Welcome Aboard and Welcome Back!

No new examiners reported from DIRAUX.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to the following members who have passed the Vessel Examiner class given on Coast Guard Island at the Past Captain's Training Fair over the weekend of August 16th and 17th: Please provide them assistance in completing their qualification ASAP.

Doug Scruton	01-02	Chris Wenk	01-05
Joel Hammer	01-07	Robert West	04-03
Stephen Johnson	04-06	Steven Johnson	05-01
James Minkel	05-01	Ray Marentette	05-07
Joseph Harris	11-01	Lura Dymond	12-91

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

1-If an owner has consented to a VE performing a VSC on their vessel, what can be expected?

- A guarantee against a boarding by the Coast Guard or local marine authorities, as long as the VSC decal is current.
- A one-on-one education about boating laws, safety equipment and operation of a vessel in a safe manner.
- A minimum of a 10% discount on the boat owner's marine insurance policy.
- All of the above.

2-Because of unusual circumstances, you were unable to conduct 5 VSC's last year.

What happens now?

- You have to do ten this year to keep your qualifications and to make up for last year and then apply to the DSO-VE for re-instatement.
- You have to do at least two VSC's under supervision of a certified VE to regain your qualification and then perform 5 additional VSC's.
- You have to meet the full initial qualification criteria to regain your qualifications,
- You can't regain your qualifications. Once you miss a year you're too rusty to be an effective VE.

Congratulations!

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

George T. Cusack	03-10	Harold Laetsch	05-01
Johannes A. Pattiradjawane	05-02	Charles E. Mc Carty	05-03
Linda C. Mc Carty	05-03	Wilfred A. Sumner II	05-05
John L. Banks	06-01	Charles A. Poplinger	08-07
Christen A. Arroyo	10-02	Leslie J. Pearlman	11-01
Fred A. Goodwin	12-03		

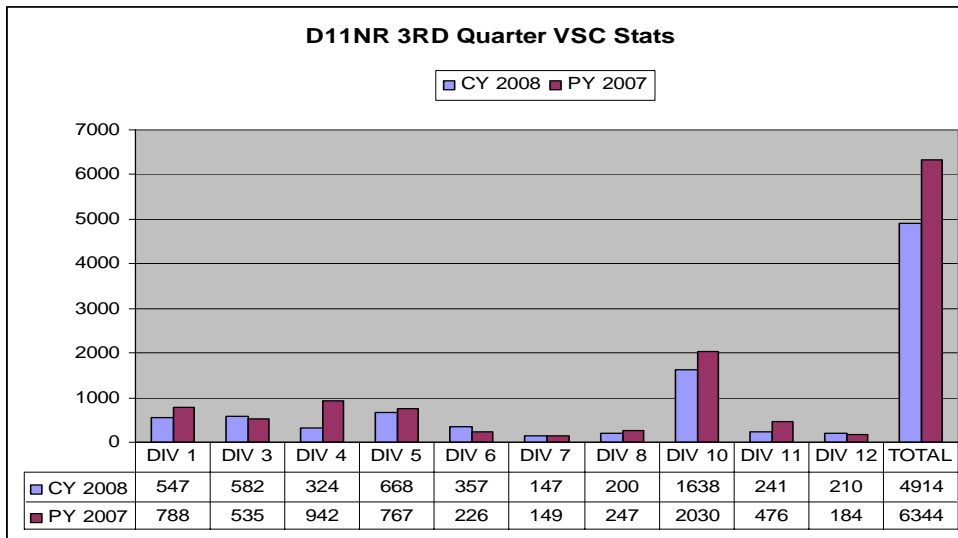
This brings our total to 52 examiners reaching this plateau!! This is approximately 18% the total District examiner base. 2007 had 42 examiners or 16% at this time.

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 August 31, 2008

Division Statistics*

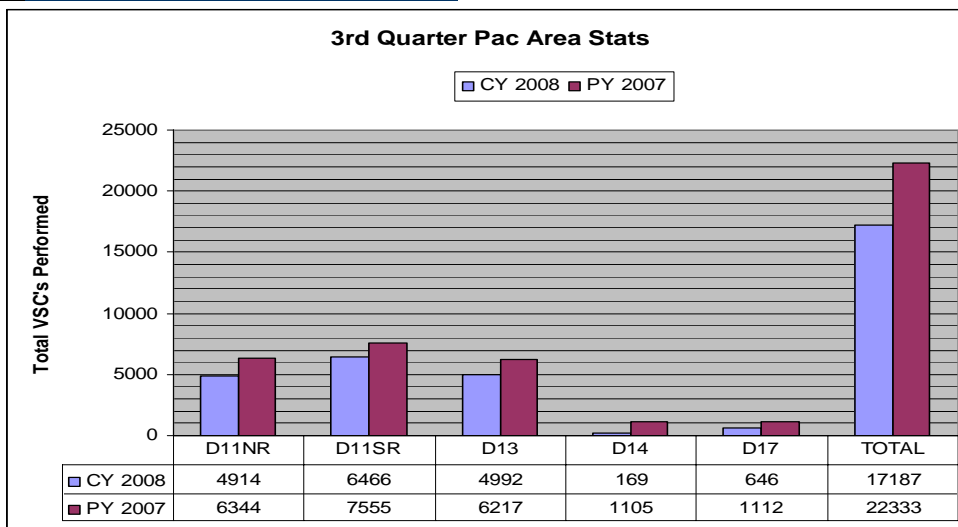


The goal for D11NR for 2008 is 7,500 VSC's. We are 65% of our goal for the year and 77% of 2007 production! The data source is AUXINFO. PLEASE be certain that all stats are reported MONTHLY using the CURRENT Form 7038 to your FSO-IS so you and your unit(s) will receive proper credit.

Additional stats from AUXINFO* indicates that 2933 or 60% of our VSC's are First Time VSC's. In addition 2567 or 52% are High Risk VSC's.

*Statistics as shown in AUXINFO thru August 31, 2008

Pacific Area Statistics*



*Statistics as shown in AUXINFO thru August 31, 2008

National and District News

National News

-The new Vessel Examiner pfd's arrived in mid-July! Each Division Captain should have distributed them by now to Flotilla Commanders during the July or August division meeting for distribution to current Vessel Examiners and explaining the accountability. They are red with the "Wear it" logo on the front and manually inflate. However, there appears to be some confusion regarding the inflatable life jackets issued over the past two months.

1-The intent of the distribution was to provide Auxiliary vessel examiners, public education instructors and public affairs personnel with a means of educating the recreational boating public by example. They should be worn to illustrate the comfort and ease of operation.

2- These are manually activated inflatable life jackets. The CO 2 cylinders are already installed for activation.

3-The life jackets are the property of the Coast Guard and are only on loan similar to the personal protection equipment we received in the past for operations. There are NO maintenance funds. If a cylinder is discharged it will need to be replaced by the individual, their unit or the CG.

4-THIS IS A ONE TIME ALLOCATION AND EXAMINERS MUST HAVE BEEN QUALIFIED PRIOR TO JUNE 2008 TO RECEIVE ONE.

District News

-We had excellent last minute participation by vessel examiners manning PA stations and performing VSC's getting the word out about the Big Cat Poker Run held in the Delta on Saturday August 9th. In addition, Vessel Examiners also came through manning VSC stations over the weekends of August 22nd-24th and August 30th-31st in support of the National and Cal Boating's lifejacket "WEAR IT" campaign.

I heard several excellent reports from many sources about a job well done by Vessel Examination crews. Look for additional opportunities to partner with the "WEAR IT" campaign in 2009. BRAVO-ZULU to all who participated on these weekends!

-I had the privilege and the pleasure of accepting Flotilla 10-02 1st place 2007 National award for VSC production at NACON! I had NO idea that any flotilla in D11NR was receiving this award, much less my own flotilla! Photos of the award presentation and the trophy may be seen on your District VE site: <http://rbsafety.d11nuscgaux.info/ve.html>

-In the continuing evolution to provide NEW information and improve YOUR Vessel Examiner website: <http://rbsafety.d11nuscgaux.info/ve.html>., ALL past DSO-VE

reports, VSC Newsletters, and important announcements have been archived. If you simply click on "HOTLINE MESSAGES" you will find them. Only current DSO-VE report, Newsletter, and important announcements will be on the front page.

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Answer to Sailing Lingo Question: "b"

Answer to VSC questions:

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

Question 2-"b" See page 6 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!

