



Homeland Security

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary
District 11 Northern Region

Serving Northern California, Nevada, Utah



Vessel Safety Check Newsletter

October 2009

Volume 6 Number 6

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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



As another VSC season slowly draws to a close, the days are getting shorter and cooler, the leaves are starting to turn,

and except for the Delta, water levels are getting lower. I'd like to once again reflect on my past year as DSO-VE. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve on Commodore Williams staff. I appreciate the confidence the Commodore placed in me to lead the Vessel Safety Check program for D11NR-~~the~~ premier District in the nation! I also appreciate the support of EXCOM, for without it, my programs for you, the examiner could not be successful. I also want to thank Joaquin Duran, Tony Budlong, and Phil Grove for being excellent ADSO-VE's and helping to

lighten my workload. Each gentleman brought something unique to our program!

Congratulations to the 9 graduates from the Vessel Examiner class at the VE workshop held in Reno in January and the 33 graduates from the spring and fall PCA Fairs. These events have added 42 new enthusiastic examiners to our D11NR examiner pool.

Finally, I'd like to thank **YOU**-the vessel examiner for braving your local elements from the low water levels, fog and heat here in Northern California, to the snow and cold at Lake Tahoe, Nevada, and Utah. As you'll see, we've had a great VSC season!

Some highlights worth mentioning from the past year: In January, I solicited your comments about updating the VSC Manual. ALL of your suggestions have been forwarded to the various committee members for

consideration. I hope to hear about a draft manual later this fall.

NSBW kicked-off with many notable events including; the huge Division 3 PA/VSC kick-off day at Discovery Park in Sacramento with CAL BOATING, Boat Responsibility.Com, Wear It California! the Coast Guard and other agencies supporting safe boating in Northern California.

Further, the life jacket exchange at the Bass Pro Shops store in Manteca that had 70 life jackets exchanged-over **TWICE** the average of all their other stores nationwide!

In June, I had the pleasure to be invited to observe 2 out of 3 VSC stations planned that day in the Lake Tahoe area. That blitz produced almost 100 VSC's! As a result of this day and many similar, Division 11 VSC production improved over **425%** the 2008 production from 236 VSC's to 944 VSC's for 2009!

The three Delta Blitz VSC stations in support of Coast Guard operations produced 284 VSC's for the 3 hot grueling events-an average of 95 VSC's per event!

Our VSC production for 2009 continues to approach record levels! Commodore Williams goal for this year was 7,800 VSC's and as of this writing surpassed that goal with **8,392 VSC's!**

For the 1st time PRIOR to the end of the year, our examiner base has exceeded 300 examiners with 315 examiners, well beyond the Commodore's goal for 2009!

We've had a huge increase in examiners producing 20+ VSC's for 2009; 2008 had 77 examiners reach this plateau for the WHOLE year and

we've blown past that level with 83 examiners with 3 months to go! This will be a record year!

Our VSC average per examiner is 27 VSC's. This surpasses the National average of 20 VSC's per examiner! As you can see, we've come a long way since 2002 when 3,562 VSC's were produced by 235 examiners at an average of 15 VSC's per examiner. These are only a few of the 2009 D11NR VSC highlights! Performing VSC's is hard work and next time you go to a Flotilla meeting, you should congratulate each other on a job **WELL DONE!**

Our D11NR VE website:

<http://rbsafety.d11nuscgaux.info/ve.html> has over 7,300 hits-up over 4,000 hits from 2008 so far this year! So it appears that we are using this resource as planned. Look for a new and slightly revised site in the near future.

Finally, I'd like to remind everyone that in order to qualify for the special District recognition for reaching the 60+ VSC plateau you **MUST** have your 7038's turned in **PRIOR** to November 1st. Again, this is because many Divisions have their Change of Watch in November and this recognition is presented at your Division Change of Watch.

Look for more year-end stats including a complete list of all examiners who performed 60+ VSC's and 20+ VSC's in the January Newsletter. Hopefully we'll have the 2010 VSC decals by mid-December to help maintain our current momentum. As always, your comments are always welcome at: sumfun@juno.com

Congratulations!

Special congratulations to **Peter W. Kyryl** of Flotilla 6-07 for receiving the Coast Guard's PAC AREA Recreational Boating Safety **EAGLE** award! Peter was presented his award by CDR. David Chareonsuphiphat, ARCO-P Victor J. Connell and DCO Michael L. Williams in a special ceremony at Coast Guard Island during the September 2009 District meeting. Peter received a well-deserved standing ovation for his 25+ years of service to the Auxiliary's RBS program.

Welcome Aboard and Welcome Back!

Stephen G. Daugherty	01-07	James V. Rohde	05-01
William H. Becker	05-07	Richard L. Allen	06-07
Sandra Higginbotham*	07-03	Timothy R. Kahn	10-05
Peter F. Snook*	11-01		

***Re-certification**

With the addition of these 7 new and re-certified examiners for 2009, our examiner base now is 315 active examiners! This represents about 21% of our total District membership. This information is supplied by the Director's office, as examiners are qualified.

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-August 9th
- National Marina Day-August 14th
- Past Captains Training Fair- Coast Guard Island-August 21st -22nd

Congratulations!

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

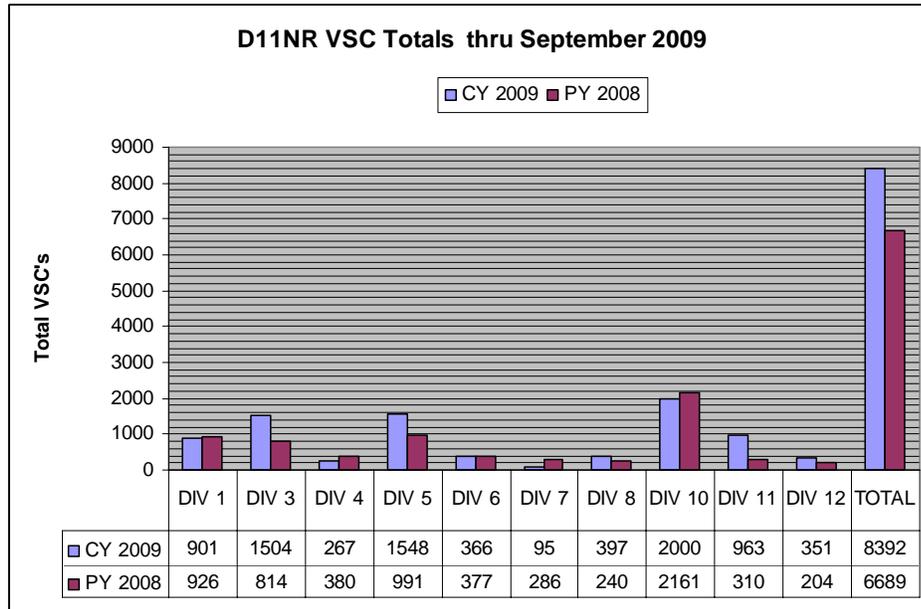
Sue K. Fry	01-07	Diana R. Serchia	01-07
John G. Albro	03-05	Manuel Garcia	03-09
Steven M. Johnson	05-01	Margaret R. Balch	05-07
John L. Banks	06-01	Matthew F. Innes	10-02
Donald L. Pierce	10-05	John R. Kane	12-21
Richard I. Niemi	12-21		

This brings our total to 83 examiners reaching this plateau!! This is approximately 27% of the total District examiner base. 2008 had 60 examiners or 20% 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 September 30, 2009

• Division Statistics*

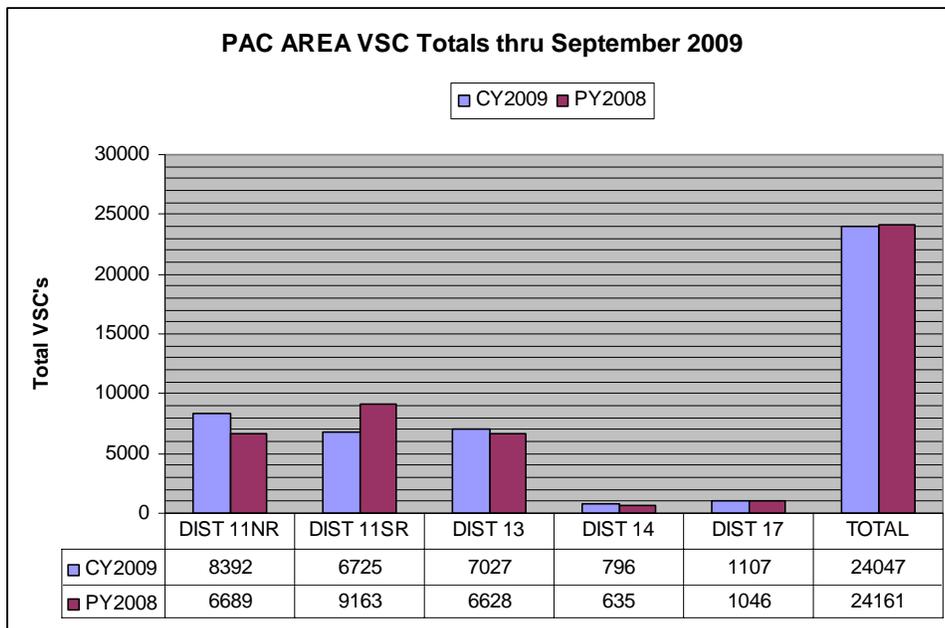


*Statistics as shown in AUXINFO thru September 30, 2009

The goal for D11NR for 2009 is **7,800 VSC's**. We are **108%** of our goal for the year and **125%** 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.

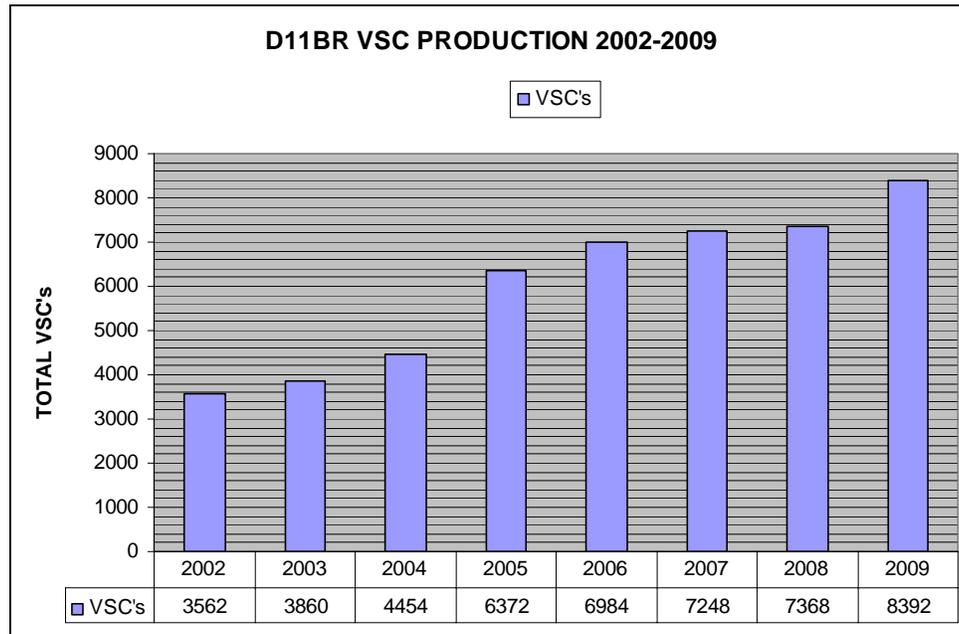
Additional stats from AUXINFO* indicates that 5205 or **63%** of our VSC's are First Time VSC's. In addition 5189 or **63%** are High Risk VSC's.

PAC AREA Statistics*



*Statistics as shown in AUXINFO thru September 30, 2009

D11NR 2002-2009 Growth Statistics*



Very simply, this chart shows the growth of the VSC program here in D11NR!

*Statistics as shown in AUXINFO thru September 30, 2009

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

1-Which of the following is good techniques for checking the ventilation system on a gasoline powered inboard boat?

- a. Look into the fuel and engine compartments or spaces for evidence of leaks.
- b. Have the owner turn on the blower so that the air exhausting from the blower can be felt.
- c. Check the date of manufacture and depending on that date; check that the type of ventilation is appropriate for the year of manufacture.
- d. All of the above.

2-You are performing a VSC in a state that requires all vessels to carry an anchor and anchor line. The 13' jon boat you're checking doesn't have one on board. Can you issue a VSC decal since anchors are on the "right" side of the 7012 form?

- a. No, regardless of which side of the 7012 form the item is on, item 14 on the left side of the form requires compliance with state and/or local laws.
- b. No, if you signed off on a boat without an anchor when the state requires one, the fine is transferred to you instead of the offending boat owner.
- c. Yes, anchors and anchor lines are just good ideas and recommended by the VSC program. However, the VE is not law enforcement so you should issue the decal.
- d. Yes, some states have initiated laws that are impractical. Since a small 13' jon boat couldn't carry enough anchor line to reach to the bottom of a deep lake anyway, issue the decal.

♥Bet You Didn't Know....

In days gone by, personal hygiene left much room for improvement. As a result, many women and men had developed acne scars by adulthood. The women would spread bee's wax over their facial skin to smooth out their complexions. When they were speaking to each other, if a woman began to stare at another woman's face she was told, "mind your own bee's wax." Should the woman smile, the wax would crack, hence the term "crack a smile." In addition, when they sat too close to the fire, the wax would melt . . . therefore, the expression "losing face!"

♥National and District News

♥National News

For Safety's Sake, Volume I - 2009

The newest edition of For Safety's Sake, Volume I - 2009 has been released. This new issue was released on September 25th and is available for downloading from the V Departments Newsletter page at <http://safetyseal.net/Newsletters/>.

In this issue is: That Warm Fuzzy Feeling, Recognition of our Members, Retention, Materials, Orion Flare Launcher Recall, Raymarine Recall, Inflatable Life Jackets: Bobbin Age and Safety and more! You can also find a link on your D11NR Vessel Examiner website: <http://rbsafety.d11nuscgaux.info/ve.html>. Download your copy and pass it on to your associates after you've read it.

♥District News



-This past summer, in partnership with CAL BOATING the **Boat Responsibility.com** Safety Team has been making the rounds throughout the Delta and area lakes. Recently, they partnered with the VSC team of Bill Sharp, Mike Rafatti, and Tim Mandel from Flotilla 10-02 at Lake Don Pedro to help each other promote the safe boating message. At events, the Safety Team distributes *Stearns* life jackets, sun care kits and other promotional items. Throughout the

summer, they have had many radio spots to promote **"Remember, if it's Your Boat, It's Your Responsibility."** In addition, they are partnering with Forever Resorts, and West Marine to offer prizes. . You can find a link to their website on your D11NR

website: <http://rbsafety.d11nuscgaux.info/ve.html> Please refer to their calendar to see where the team will be and possibly partner with them to help promote boating safety.

Photos: Upper: Information booth at Don Pedro

Lower: Tim Mandel shows Kelly Lewis and Ray Navar the VSC decal.



Question 1-"d" See page 21 of the VSC Manual
Question 2-"a" See page 29 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!