



DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

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WebWatch

Flotilla 8-1, 5NR

July 2008

1. Register Now for the Auxiliary National Conference (NACON)

We are pleased to announce that registration and information regarding NACON 2008 is now available online. You may register for the conference online as well as make your hotel reservations through the links provided on the site. We are continuing to update the website as more information becomes available for posting. Plan to attend now, register and make your reservations early so you do not miss out. Early Bird Registration ends on July 17, 2008. Mail-in registration ends on August 1, 2008. Online registration ends on August 10, 2008. After August 10th registration will only be available at the Conference Registration Desk at the hotel in Orlando starting at 12:00 noon on Wednesday August 20th.

2. USCGAUX Amateur Radio Event

All U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary members that are Amateur Radio operators are invited to operate as "Special Event Radio Stations" on Saturday October 18, 2008 on Amateur H.F. frequencies to commemorate the Anniversary of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. All amateurs are invited to set up and operate Special Event Radio stations using High Frequency all across the nation. Official USCG Aux Special Event Amateur Radio stations will be operating "On the Air" with a Special 1 X 1 call all day contacting amateur radio operators and other U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary stations from coast to coast.

All official Special Event Radio Stations will be sent Free Commemorative QSL's to mail out. Last year over 30 USCG Aux. Special Event Stations contacted thousands of other amateurs and USCG Auxiliary members to commemorate the USCG Auxiliary Anniversary.

3. DSC Radio Tutorial Available

A reminder that the BoatU.S. interactive tutorial on DSC Radio is a great asset for all boaters, including Auxiliarists and the general public. This online tutorial reveals much information about Rescue 21 and the proper use of Digital Selective Calling (DSC) radios.



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4. Lifejacket Use Clarification

Per CHDIRAUX Office: Misinformation passed at a recent Auxiliary meeting stated that the USCG would be withdrawing approval of inflatable lifejackets for all boats capable of going 30 mph or more. To clarify: Impending changes to authorized inflatable life jackets applies only to CG active duty, Reserves, and Auxiliary. By 2009 all life jackets authorized for use by CG personnel must be dynamic strength tested to 50 mph. The Auxiliary will be less affected since it will only apply to Auxiliary personnel on facilities that have the capability to exceed 35 mph. This change has nothing to do with the boating public and is strictly an "in-house" standard to ensure safety conducting missions utilizing high speed assets. The CG is not withdrawing approval for Inflatable Life Jackets, merely removing types it previously listed in the Rescue and Survival Systems Manual as approved for use by CG personnel. Again, it has nothing to do with the public, only CG. Please ensure this is communicated as appropriate.

5. 1st Quarter 2008 Commandant Report

The Commandant's quarterly brief presents two topics in the Projects and Critical Issues categories that either require added attention and emphasis or are tracking on course at this time. The first item Coast Guard Auxiliary modernization was discussed in the most recent flag conference. The second item addresses the longer term Auxiliary Information Systems requirements. Following the discussion of critical issues is a section on Accomplishments and Initiatives that draws items of interest from activities in experienced by field units. Finally, The Course Ahead outlines the directions and efforts of the National Staff Directorates.

6. BoatU.S. Auxiliary Benefits Reminder

Check out BoatU.S. Auxiliary friendly web site for great deals on marine insurance plus 50% off annual membership, 10% off of the towing package and 20% off subscription to Seaworthy Magazine. Go to ShopAuxiliary.com and click on Members Only; then enter your member number and password used for the eDirectory. Then click on the BoatU.S. logo.

7. Clean Boating Act of 2008 Now with Congress

After meeting unanimous approval by the Senate Environmental and Public Works Committee and passage by the House Committee on Transportation and

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Infrastructure, the Clean Boating Act of 2008 is now headed to a vote in Congress. If passed, the Act will permanently restore the exclusion of recreational boats and anglers from federal and state permitting requirements mandated by the Clean Water Act.

Intended to address terrestrial industrial facilities and ocean-going commercial vessels, the Clean Water Act requires permitting by recreational boat owners for deck runoff, bilge, engine cooling or effluent water and any other discharge incidental to normal vessel operation. A recent court ruling about pollution being dumped from commercial ship ballast water will also require all recreational boats to get permits by September, 2008—despite the fact that 99% of recreational boats do not have ballast tanks?

Boats and ships are different, and shouldn't be treated the same. These costly permits—intended for commercial ships and supertankers that have brought harmful invasive water species into U.S. waters—are being developed right now to tax your boat's engine cooling water, bilge water, and even deck runoff. This will seriously impact boating participation unless Congress acts quickly.

It's not an exaggeration to say that it will take an act of Congress to fix this problem before the federal government steps in and starts regulating how boaters enjoy a say out on the water.

If Congress does not pass the Clean Boating Act of 2008 by the Sept., 30, 2008 deadline, recreational boaters could be subjected to a potentially arduous permitting process that marine industry experts fear will become a deterrent to boaters entering, or remaining active in, boating. According to [BoatBlue](#), an industry coalition that is dedicated to preserving the ease and freedom of recreational boating and is in favor of the Act, failure to pass the legislation could mean that boaters will face yearly fees and potential state-by-state regulations, risk of citizen lawsuits and \$32,000 per day penalties for non-compliance.

8. National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will be hosting public meetings/hearings in Washington DC, Portland and Chicago over the next two months on additional information for the discharge permit for vessels. Members are encouraged to attend as private citizens to make their concerns as recreational boaters known to the EPA, but cannot give input in uniform or use



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auxiliary titles unless they receive permission from their District Commodore, Director of Auxiliary, and District Commander. Questions should be directed via the National Legislative Liaison Committee website.

9. *From the U.S. Coast Guard Boating Safety Division*

As many of you may recall, the U. S. Coast Guard Infoline (a toll-free phone number formerly referred to as the Boating Safety Hotline) was discontinued October 1, 2006 due to budget shortfalls. At that time, the Coast Guard requested our partner organizations to remove the 800 number from active websites and customer assistance phone services, and to discontinue the use of the number in all printed material.

It has recently come to the Coast Guard's attention that the CG Infoline 800 number (800-368-5647) has been privately reactivated and now leads to a secondary 800 number that is unrelated to boating safety when dialed. All Coast Guard field units have been directed to obliterate this number from all forms and publications where it appears. All replacement stock of these forms and publications no longer carry the CG Infoline number.

Due to the fact that the boating public is still continuing to attempt to reach us at this number, we are asking for your assistance in ensuring that your membership is aware that the Coast Guard Infoline/Hotline is no longer in use and to discontinue the placement of the number in all publications and services. It is further requested that, where possible, you obliterate this number from any existing stock of materials in order to prevent any misdirection or confusion for the recreational boating public.

Your cooperation and assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated, and thank you for all you do to make recreational boating safer for our boating public.

10. *Auxiliary History Book*

The latest Auxiliary History Book that brings the information up-to-date through the new "Normalcy" since 9/11 is still available for any members who desire to purchase a copy. As part of your celebration of the 69th Anniversary of the

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USCG Auxiliary you can order your copy of the history book which chronicles the dedicated service of Auxiliarists since the birth of the organization in 1939.

11. For Safety's Sake, Volume II - 2008

The newest edition of For Safety's Sake, Volume II - 2008 has been released. This new issue was released on June 21st and is available for downloading from the V Departments Newsletter page. In this issue is: 2007 Results, Communications, Educational Thrusts, Training, The Bell Revisited, The Wear It Campaign, 2007 Be A Survivor Essay Winners, Reality Strikes Home, Inflatable Life Jackets and more. Download your copy and pass it on to your associates after you've read it.

12. Travel Voucher Form Updated

The Travel Voucher, DD-1351-2 and Continuation, DD-1351-2C eForms have been revised to reflect the changes to some airlines which are now charging for baggage. The expense drop down menus now include Aircraft Baggage Charge. Travelers must use this code to be reimbursed for baggage fees.

13. New Personal Qualifications Standard (TelComPQS)

A new Personal Qualifications Standard (PQS) for Auxiliary Telecommunications has been developed and approved by the Auxiliary, see our Department of Operations Telecoms main page for details.

14. Changes to Trident Education Requirements

Trident Update Bulletin 2008-01 describes the change in the educational requirements for both the MS Training Ribbon and Trident device. The change brings these requirements into compliance with the ICS requirements established in ALAUX 002/07.



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15. Coast Guard Announces Successful Launch of Nationwide Automatic Identification System Satellite

WASHINGTON -- The U.S. Coast Guard announced Friday the launch of an ORBCOMM concept demonstration satellite, equipped with Automatic Identification System (AIS) capability, from Kapustin Yar, Russia, Thursday.