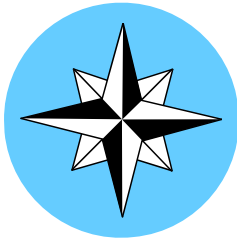


February, 19, 2007

Volume 2, Issue 1



# SHIP'S LOG

## Are you a USCG Auxiliary Member yet?

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### Special points of interest:

- "I Want a VSC"
- Spring Boating Safety Classes

This is a big question people will be hearing a lot this year.

We are looking to increase the largest volunteer force of 27,000 strong in the United States.

Are you a member yet? No? Why not? We offer fun, fellowship, and some of the best training in the country.

We are about promoting SAFETY on the water. The United States Coast Guard, Reserves, Auxiliary, and other agencies rescue countless boaters each year from situations that could have been avoided.

I had the pleasure of at-

tending our Change of Watch, (COW), on Jan .27th, 2007. One of our speakers was Captain Lee, USCG, from Sector North Carolina. His message to us was "Please prevent me from having to make one more awful phone call in the middle of the night to someone's family member who had passed away from a boating accident". We have programs that address the prevention of another accident. Public Education, (see article below), we teach several boating safety classes.

Vessel Safety Checks or VSC's are given free of charge and you can sched-

ule one on the website, (see article on VSC's inside for address). We will also have a VSC schedule soon on our website, [www.coastguardaux.com/f9\\_11](http://www.coastguardaux.com/f9_11).

See "New Member Corner" article on pg. 3 inside!

Come check us out! We meet the second Thursday of each month at the NC State University Club at 7pm.

Contact our VFC, Ken Hoadley at [KenH@coastguardaux.com](mailto:KenH@coastguardaux.com) to let him know you would like to attend.

The editor

## The Need For Boating Safety Classes

Our Public Education dept. is setting up for our next round of Boating Safety & Seamanship, (BS&S), classes for the spring of 2007. The classes will start February 20th and will be held at Bond Park in Cary. The subjects covered are

navigation, marlinspike (knot tying), communications, trailering safety, weather, boat maintenance, etc. A one day course, America's Boating Course, ABC, will be given on Feb. 24th and April 14 at Nationwide Ins. on Creed-

moor Rd. We will hold an Advanced Coastal Navigation, ACN, 8 wk. Course starting Feb. 28th. If you are interested in taking any of these classes, you may contact FSO-PE, Ron Sanders at [sande007@bellsouth.net](mailto:sande007@bellsouth.net).

## Department Spotlight: Surface Operations

By: Jim D'Errico, FSO-OP Div. 9, Flotilla 11

OPERATIONS: We're in the Coast Guard Auxiliary, Let's go on Patrol! That's what we do, right? Ok, we have to qualify first. There are 3 levels that you can qualify in, Boat Crew, Coxswain (patrol vessel commander), and PWC, (Personal Watercraft Operator). Most of the OP's qualification tasks are hands-on! Demonstrate the ability to tie a knot, anchor a boat, tow a boat. We practice these every time we go out (ie., hands on training), so when it comes time to help someone, we do it in a professional

"Coast Guard" manner. We look and act professionally and we instill confidence.

Why do we do patrols? Allow me to describe a common situation. You come upon a boat adrift containing a dad, a mom, and two small children. Dad has the cover off the engine and is tinkering with it, and mom is holding her two small children to her (trying to be brave). You ask if they would like a tow, knowing that mom will throw dad overboard if he says, "No". So you tow them back to the ramp and help them tie

up to the dock.

Here's the payoff, it happens all the time. Dad offers you money and, as you notice a single tear running down mom's huge smile, you politely decline. By the way, that a good time to give them your business card, with our website address and recommend they take a boating safety course! You can't learn Boat Crew skills in a classroom.

We ARE the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary— Let's go on patrol!!!



**"The VSC you have today...may save a life tomorrow"**

### VSC's—What is it and where can I get one?

A VSC is a Vessel Safety Check and you can get one by going to the website [www.vesselsafetycheck.org/](http://www.vesselsafetycheck.org/) GetVSC/ This VSC will go over the Federal requirements of safety equipment you are required to have on your boat. A certified VE, (Vessel Examiner) will contact you

from the website and schedule an appointment to perform the VSC. A few of the items include lifejackets, fire extinguishers, a visual day and night signaling device, a sound producing device, making sure your navigation lights work, etc.

So go to the website and schedule your VSC today!!!!



### RBS—Recreational Boating Safety

RBS—Recreational Boating Safety, this is a very large part of what the Auxiliary does and its one of four cornerstones of the Auxiliary. Programs such as the Vessel Examiner, (VE), and the RBSVP, Recreational Boating Safety Visitation Program, Public Education Program, etc., all have one thing in common—SAFETY. As

the saying goes an "Ounce of prevention is worth more than a pound of cure". We are about PREVENTION, we visit all types of business's to promote boating safety. Primarily these are places that the boater frequents, besides the obvious places such as boating supply stores, dealers, etc. We provide information to places such as doctors

offices, grocery stores, just about anywhere. We spend an enormous amount of time in this area trying to get to as many boaters as we can. The more the public knows the less likely they will become a statistic.

## USCG & AUXILIARY Interaction

In August of 2006 Coxswain D. Collins and the crew of DJ&T, Operating Facility or OpFac 26700, spent a few days at USCG Station Emerald Isle. He was asked by the United States Coast Guard and the United States Marine Rescue organizations if he and his crew could provide some on-the-water support to day/night operations for the Marines. The answer was a very BIG YES! D. Collins, G. Midyette, of the Cary Flotilla, A. Lloyd from the Morehead City Flotilla and R. Johnson of the Raleigh

Flotilla. While on a safety patrol of the USCG Sta. Emerald Isle Area a call came into the station requesting a Coast Guard vessel to support helo ops with rescue swimmer training. OpFac 26700 was dispatched to cover the helo ops and an active duty crewman was placed on our facility to supervise and train the crew on helo support. Their job was to stand by the helo ops at about a 3 o'clock position and to be ready to assist if the swimmers ran into any problems. The marine helicopter dropped three

swimmers into the water just outside Bogue Inlet. They practiced several times dropping the basket down and retrieving the swimmers. This routine was repeated for both day and night operations.

D. Collins and crew were requested for support again.

They were sent out again to support the helo ops, this time without any active duty personnel on board.

D. Collins stated these operations and interaction with the USCG have been the best!



## Radio Communications-GMDSS

GMDSS—Global Maritime Distress and Safety System. This system is using a newer technology called DSC or Digital Selective Calling, you push numbers on a keypad and a digital signal runs through a network to ring a phone at the other end. Most new radios now being manu-

factured are now equipped with the DSC feature. If you have one of these you can monitor channel 70 to receive a distress call from another vessel. If you do not you will then need to monitor channel 16, this is the hailing and emergency channel on VHF marine radios. In order to be

able to send a signal you need to enter a specific MMSI number into your unit. This number can be obtained from either Boat US, or Sea-Tow. See your Owner's Manual on how to enter your number and use your radio to its fullest capability.



**“Did you know...?  
87% of all boating fatalities could have been avoided if they were wearing their life jackets...”**

## New Member Corner.....Come Join the Fun!!!

Members are eligible to receive the world's finest on-the-water training. Advanced training courses in Navigation, Seamanship, Communications, Weather, Administration, Patrols, Search and Rescue are available as well as courses from the Coast Guard Institute. Other benefits include the Coast Guard Credit Union and Exchanges

plus insurance coverage.

Exciting opportunities await you in the USCG Auxiliary, we teach the boating public about boating safety, navigation, etc. We also provide free Vessel Safety Checks, (VSC's), to recreational and commercial fishing vessels.

The Auxiliary and the Coast Guard provide boaters with

helpful information and emergency assistance. We are involved with Marine Environmental Protection, we assist in recruiting to build a stronger Coast Guard team and assist the Coast Guard in areas such as computer operations, radio watch standing, publications and public affairs.

**Come Join Our TEAM!!!**

USCG Auxiliary, Fifth Southern Region,  
Division 9, Flotilla 11, Cary, NC

Editor: Ken Hoadley,  
FSO-PB, FSO-SR  
Cary, NC

Phone: 919-460-5364  
email: KenH@coastguardaux.com



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[coastguardaux.com](http://coastguardaux.com)

## Who is the USCG Auxiliary?

The Coast Guard Auxiliary is the civilian, non-military component of the Coast Guard Team, created by an act of Congress on 1939. The Auxiliary directly supports the Coast Guard in all of its missions except military and law enforcement actions.

As Auxiliarists we serve side-by-side with active duty members of the Coast Guard team at their stations, boating races/events and in times of disaster.

We are over 27,000 volunteers strong and growing, if you are interested in joining our team, check out page 3 in this newsletter!!!!

## How did you join the USCG Auxiliary?



Dick Fay: D. Fay is our Flotilla Commander, (FC), for 2007. D. Fay joined the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary in 2001. He also spent four years in the United States Marines as well.

D. Fay joined the Auxiliary due to his love of boating. At the time he was the proud owner of a sailboat and was talked into taking our Sailing Fundamentals course. During the classes, our past members the Gammone's discussed with Dick about the Auxiliary and what it had to offer and what he could offer it.

Through these discussions it became apparent to him, this was the place to be.

It also didn't hurt that Dick's experience as a communications expert would greatly help the Cary Flotilla.

Our communications department interested Dick since he had learned about communications during his time as a Marine. He then turned that interest into a career for a number of years.

Dick has held positions in the Auxiliary as FSO-CM and SO-CM and now as

our Flotilla Commander or FC. Dick is currently qualified as a crew member, a Public Education Instructor, and a certified Vessel Examiner.

We look forward to his leadership in the coming year.

The Editor