

SLO NEWSGRAM

July 2010

Greetings, State Liaison Officer!

The Auxiliary State Liaison Program has generated some tremendous programs through the first half of 2010. In every district, SLOs are developing state programs while engaging district staff to expand Auxiliary partnerships. This is a very important part of the Auxiliary's overall recreational boating safety (**RBS**) efforts. When State Liaison Officers report RBS activities within their states, these success stories are shared and reproduced in other states. Communication is key to keeping others engaged in the states RBS programs.

STATE LIAISON RESOURCES UPDATED

SLOs are expected to be familiar with many boating issues and resources. You should already be very familiar with the Coast Guard <<http://www.uscgboating.org/>> and Auxiliary <<http://www.cgaux.org/>> websites. You should also be familiar with the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) website <<http://www.nasbla.org/>>. Many interstate boating agreements are reached through NASBLA sponsorship, and information about your state Boating Law Administrator (BLA) is found on this site. Many NASBLA subcommittees have active Coast Guard and Auxiliary participation.

There are many other state boating websites, as well as websites for marinas, yacht clubs, Sea Scouts <<http://www.seascout.org/>>, United States Power Squadrons <<http://www.usps.org/>>, and other associations. You should plan on contacting commercial establishments, such as marine supply stores, BoatUS <<http://www.boatus.org/>>, and county boating emergency agencies. Consider developing a list of local boating websites to share with your Boating Law Administrator and your district staff.

EMAIL DIRECTORY

We received several email changes in the last quarter. Thank you very much. Please remember to let us know if your information is incorrect or has changed. This helps us get you the information you need to succeed. Please take a minute to be sure your name is listed as the SLO for your District and State along with correct email and contact information. If there are changes or your name is not listed as the SLO, please contact your DCO or DSO-IS to update the information.

OUTSTANDING SLO ACTIVITIES

- **SOUTH CAROLINA** SLO Festus & Barbara Burchfield report that Recreational boating was in the news for most of May. Boating fatalities in South Carolina have reached 16, well over the 11 fatalities for all of 2009. Statewide news media have publicized the Auxiliary's National Safe Boating Week efforts. In Columbia, Auxiliarists worked with WLTX TV to produce a safe boating message to viewers on Lake Murray. Facilities from Flotillas 12-1 and 12-3 and SC DNR demonstrated what to do in boats crossing, overtaking, and head-on situations. Wearing USCG-approved life jackets, boating safety classes, vessel safety checks, using lookouts, BUI, speed, and restricted/limited visibility were also emphasized. The 3 minute segment was aired primetime on 28 May and was included in a 30 minute boating safety special. This is available online at: <http://www.wltx.com/news/story.aspx?storyid=88034&catid=2>

South Carolina Division 12 aggressively promoted boating classes and vessel safety check events throughout May. Several boating safety presentations were given to community

groups, Sea Scouts, and schools. The SO-PA delivered a turnkey NSBW press release for use by each D12 FSO-PAs and it was widely published. NSBW boating safety efforts also included Auxiliary, DNR, Coast Guard and USPS press conference on 27 May at Charleston, and a press event in Myrtle Beach with the Mayor and Auxiliary members.

In April, Colonel Taylor, South Carolina NASBLA, attended a Division 12 meeting. Col. Taylor spoke about embracing a partnership for increasing boating classes, VSCs, and working more closely to promote recreational boating safety. We feel that this message from the head of DNR to Auxiliary leadership may have “turned the corner” for some who may not have endorsed this idea in the past. In the meantime, Auxiliary boating classes were certified for SC DNR boating education cards, and are now promoted online with SC DNR, with the net result that class sizes are noticeably larger.

In May, SLO Burchfield represented the Auxiliary at the Lake Murray Boating Safety meeting, hosted by Senator Ronnie Cromer, at the Columbia legislative meeting rooms. This meeting was attended by SC DNR, USCG Auxiliary, Lake Murray Association, Lake Murray Watch, and concerned Lake Murray residents. The attendees discussed SC DNR’s role, boating accidents, BUI, speed limits, and how to improve safety on the lake. SC DNR Col. Taylor delivered a compelling report about the 47% DNR budget reduction and how it affects law enforcement in the state, as well as other DNR responsibilities, training, and planning. Taylor encouraged a partnership with USCG Auxiliary for boating safety classes, vessel safety checks, and mentioned communications between agencies when conducting safety patrols.

- **NORTH CAROLINA PARTNERSHIP WITH AGENCIES**

SLO Peter Bohler reports that effective May 1, 2010 in North Carolina, vessel operators are now being asked by law enforcement officers to present a certification card or proof of compliance with the General Statute to have a BLA approved boating safety training course completion certificate for anyone younger than 26 years of age, who is operating a vessel powered by a 10 horse powered or greater motor on public waterways.

The Raleigh-Wake composite squadron held a boating safety kick-off event during the Raleigh area Lake Patrol program (aka. Sundown Patrol) on May 30, Memorial Day holiday weekend. The Lake Patrol is a volunteer program of low-level flights over lakes in the vicinity of Raleigh-Durham International Airport. On weekends during the summer, and at other special times, such as holidays, the Lake Patrol launches CAP aircrews to conduct visual surveys of these lakes while also conducting SAR/DR (aircrew, ground team, mission base) training. The visual survey provides mission scanners and mission observers with practice in looking for targets. An objective is to identify people who might be in distress or in need of assistance. Aircrews also practice DR photo reconnaissance activities such as taking pictures of critical infrastructure like dams and bridges, and will perform aerial ELT beacon homing, coordinating activities with CAP ground teams and the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. Lake Patrol sorties will be launched between early afternoon and just prior to sunset from the RDU International airport.

- **AUXILIARY ASSISTS WITH GRAND PRIX RACING BOATS**

Charles Tibbens, Kentucky SLO, worked with Sector Ohio Valley surface patrol units, Kentucky Fish and Wildlife, Army Corp of Engineers, and local authorities in early June during the Lake Cumberland Grand Prix featuring off shore racing boats. This was the first year that the Auxiliary worked directly with the other agencies for this event. The Auxiliary also made great inroads with the local fire / EMS units and have good prospects of expanding a working relationship with the local rescue units.

- **UTAH PROVIDES BOATING SKILL TRAINING**

SLO Joyce Bell reports that a joint Utah State/USCG Auxiliary NSBW kick-off event at Utah Lake was successfully held despite questionable weather. Anne Evans, Utah State Boating Education Coordinator and Lana Visser, FSO-PA 78, collaborated in creating a kids' water safety activity. The kids and their parents participated in games and activities that taught the basics of boating and water safety. They included: *Shiver Me Timbers* (hypothermia demonstration), *All Tied Up In Knots* (basic knot tying), *Life Jacket Relay* (choosing the proper life jacket), *Ring Toss A-Go Go* (reach and throw, but never go in), *Coastie's Boating and Water Quiz*, and *This Could Save Your Life* (life jacket display) A completion card was stamped at each game station, and participants were awarded a special ribbon when they completed all events.

ROCKIN' UTAH was held in the afternoon, the boating segment of ROCKIN' (Reaching Out Connecting Kids In Nature) UTAH took place. Pre-registered youth and their parents participated in the kids' water safety activities and then were fitted with life jackets and were able to go for a ride in sailboats and canoes furnished and manned by Utah Lake concessionaires. SLO Bell participated in **NSBW Inflatable Life Jacket Event** with state employees and visitors in the NSBW United States/Canada first annual inflatable life jacket event in May. The event took place at Cabela's in Lehi at 0900 to coordinate with the time zones of others participating in the United States and Canada. The objective was to have a record number of inflatable life jackets inflated at the same time. The overall objective was to promote wearing life jackets and to introduce adults to inflatable life jackets as a more comfortable option.

Boating Officer Training – The State Boating Officer Training with Auxiliarist participation has been completed. SAR training occurred at Utah Lake 14-15 April and was chaired by Lou Carroll. This is very popular with boating officers because of the educational component developed by Lou and his team of Auxiliarists. Through the efforts of Chris Haller, Assistant State Boating Manager, there was evening television news coverage that showed classroom training by Auxiliarists and on-the-water exercises that prepared boating officers to help boaters in trouble.

AUXBWiki

Don't forget to use "AuxBDeptWiki Wiki" at <http://auxbdeptwiki.cgaux.org> .

USCG - AUXILIARY - STATES - PARTNERING FOR RBS! MAKE IT HAPPEN!

Bruce & Pauline



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