

Government and Partner Relations Committee

1300 Thursday September 9, 2013

Call to order by R/C Mary Ann Jensen, SN

R/C Jensen called for a moment of silence in remembrance of Stf/C Howard Manly, AP

Members present:

V/C Robert Brandenstein, SN	Stf/C Robert E. Canfield, JN	P/D/C Kenneth A. Danley, P
P/D/C John T. "Jack" Doyle, SN	D/Lt/C Dawn L. Flynn, JN	P/C William Haddock, Jr., AP
Stf /C Robert Holub, SN	P/R/C William E. Husted, SN	P/R/C Samuel E. Insalaco, N
R/C Mary Ann Jensen, SN	P/R/C Gregory E. Korstad, AP	Mary T. Larson
R/C John M. Malatak, AP	R/C Artemis M. "Art" Pickard, SN	P/R/C Joyce Shaw, AP
P/R/C Gene Van Rhee, SN	P/R/C John P. Wilson, AP	Cdr. Ralph J. Ziegler, JN

Members and guests did self introduction.

Guests:

Virgil Chambers, Executive Director, National Safe Boating Council
Keith Christopher, Sea Scouts & BSA
R/C Thomas D. Myers, JN, Chairman Environmental Committee
P/R/C Ken Link, SN USCG Liaison
V/C Louie Ojeda, SN, National Administrative Officer
D/Lt/C Raymond Paul, AP, DAO, D-13
Ev Tucker, National Boating Federation, Treasurer and Board Member
Stf/C Michael Wiedel, JN, Safety Committee vice Chair

Guest Speaker

R/C Jensen introduced R/C Tom Myers, Environmental Committee to speak on flare disposal.

R/C Thomas D. Myers, JN, Chairman Environmental Committee

R/C Thomas D, Myers gave a very detailed talk of the issues involving disposal of all pyrotechnic visual distress signals, followed by much discussion from the committee members.

A motion was made by R/C John Malatak that the Environmental Committee take the issue to the Board of Directors for a decision on further action on the subject. Motion was seconded and passed by the committee.

Administrative Items

The minutes of the January 2013 Jacksonville meeting were approved as presented.

Cdr. Ralph Ziegler requested members review available copies of roster to assure content is correct.

R/C Mary Ann Jensen noted that no new MOUs had been presented. The Sea Tow MOUs are still pending.

P/D/C John T. "Jack" Doyle reported on the USCGAux Project implementation plan. The Program Visitation (PV) presentation has been completed and reviewed and is now being used to train USPS members. No reports from the other USPS committees relate to the project.

Mary Larson – USCGAUX America Waterway Watch (AWW)

Mary Larson reported continued success with the AWW program. Boaters are continuing to "See Something, Say Something" in all parts of the country.

In addition, new programs have been started in other areas by the general citizenry. "Citizen Action Network" in Seattle and "Operation Focus Lens" in Los Angeles. Both programs are not USDCGAux

sanctioned but are reporting to USCG & Homeland Security (HS) any suspicious activity. In Los Angeles, the group is inventoring marina areas for security; well lit, gated, or security maintained are some of the items checked. This information will help USCG and HS locate areas where terrorists may launch boats.

Full details are included in Attachment A at end of these minutes

Homeland Security Report - P/R/C William E. Husted, SN

P/R/C Husted noted that sequester has had an effect on both the Citizens Corps & AWW program funding. His report follows;

The Homeland Security team continues to act on in the following activities:

- ▶ Emphasize the team's two priority missions: 1) promote Citizen Corps activities with all USPS members, and 2) support the USCG and USCGAUX in promoting "America's Waterway Watch."
- ▶ Distribute Citizen Corps updates and FEMA alerts to all D/HS/Os, D/L/Os, D/Cs, D/XOs and HS team members.
- ▶ Coordinate AWW news and activities with Mary Larsen, the main USCGAUX contact for this program who will be reporting on a new Auxiliary initiative.

In the months ahead, the HS team will be engaged in the following activities:

- ▶ Finalize GPRCom/USPS contacts within the 10 FEMA regions in a widespread effort coordinated by HS team member, Dana Tischer.
- ▶ Initiate HS/AWW-focused seminar for presentations to yacht clubs, boating organizations, civic groups, and other interested parties.
- ▶ Seek viable recommendations for expanded USPS role in homeland security endeavors

P/R/C Ken Link USCG Liaison

P/R/C Ken Link presented a survey by the USCG on failed Vessel Safety Check (VSC) data. The interesting item is that there are a few areas where USPS and USCGA VSC data varies by almost double the reject rate. The USCG has revised the Vessel Examiner (VE) training manual and is considering requiring a recertification of VEs to assure consistency in the VSC. USBI Failed VSC Data report will be available on the GPRCom website.

http://www.usps.org/national/govprcom/documents/USBI_Failed_VSC_Data_2012to2013.pdf

P/R/C Gene Van Rhee Partners Liaison

P/R/C Gene Van Rhee gave a report on his activity as liaison team leader. His report in fact was a report on how no one reported back to him except one person who gave a report of what they did and not of what their region did. Gene hopes to have better luck at the next committee meeting.

Joyce Shaw - Chair NSBC report

Joyce Shaw announced Virgil Chambers' retirement and the selection of a new Executive Director, Rachel Johnson.

Joyce attended 8 meetings for NSBC and noted that NSBC collected 10 awards this year, including the coveted Summit Award to be presented October 1. Only 6 associations worldwide were chosen for the award. NSBC continues to provide training to instructors to make them better teachers and to retailers of marine

merchandise to assure the correct safety equipment is sold to the consumer. Their campaign “Ready-Set-Wear It” is now used in 7 countries.

Virgil Chambers Executive Director, NSBC

Virgil Chambers thanked the committee for allowing him to attend these meetings. He talked about Boat On Course and Rules of the Road, new programs for training and also about the “In-Network” a website, forum based, where instructors can get information regarding teaching tools that can be used to improve classes. When you enter, you need to register as an instructor.

Ev Tucker National Boating Federation

Ev Tucker talked about Coastal Spatial Planning and how it will affect the recreation boater. Currently there is no recreation boater representation on the committee and therefore no oversight for recreational boater needs. The committee sets the offshore areas for use by wind farms, drilling stations and other on the water industrial operations. This affects both offshore and on shore access and usage. The not only affects the ocean coastline but also the Great Lakes, so all boaters are affected.

Ev also noted that the NBF website has materials that can be printed and used as handouts. E15 is still an issue, so we need to voice our non-support of this issue.

Keith Christopher, Sea Scouts & BSA

Keith Christopher thanked all those USPS members who helped at the BSA National Jamboree. They got up early (4:30 AM) and worked all day till bedtime (9:30 PM) to wake up the next, same schedule for 10 days.

State Legislative Report – Stf/C Robert E. Canfield

Region A – P/D/C James Spencer, Jr.

Region B – P/R/C Lewis Dance

Region C – no report

Main details of the State Legislative Report can be viewed in Attachment B, Summary of Region’s A & B at end of report

Stf/C Robert E. Canfield noted that there are a number of states with no representation and that a number of state representatives are not active. We need to attempt to find people who can and are willing to do the job.

A report compiled by P/C Gale Alls, JN is available on the website. The report covers all states and their legislation relative to mandatory boater education and life jacket usage for children 12 or under.

http://www.usps.org/national/govprcom/documents/NRBSC_Legislative_Report_061213.pdf

V/C Louis Ojeda, SN – USPS National Administrative Officer

V/C Louis Ojeda delivered a brief message regarding the benefit of having the GPRCom as the central committee to view all MOUs. It has helped control the content and proven to be a great watchdog to review and assure MOUs are in place with the various states. This has also reduced duplications between departments dealing with common organizations. Note that all MOUs are reviewed also by the Law Committee.

We need to talk to people in person relative to passing or getting information. We are finding that people burn out or are just getting experiencing a loss of manpower. Email is just not working for those important contacts.

P/R/C Husted asked if there were any lobby issues related to mandatory boating certificates.

Adjourned 1630

Appendix

Attachments A

Operation Focused Lens (OFL)

Objectives:

Information gathering program designed to better inform and enhance the Coast Guard port, waterways, and coastal security mission. It provides information regarding small boat marinas and ramps where terrorists might launch boats.

Background:

Initiated in California by USCG District 11 in 2008, now expanding nationwide. It is a non-mandated program and will rely on Auxiliarist's local knowledge to facilitate the program.

Data Collection Survey Forms:

Developed by Sector Baltimore and Auxiliary representatives, customized for Western Rivers members. No photos are taken or direct contact is made with marina employees or boaters.

Information included on the form:

- Location; Latitude & Longitude, address, body of water, mile marker
- Description; presence of lodging, restaurant, or boat ramp
- Isolation; remoteness, infrequent use, or obscured from public eye
- Services; boat rental, transient slips, or seaboards
- Security features; fences with locked gates, cameras, flood lights, etc.

Three Phase of Operation Focused Lens:

Phase 1:

Auxiliary, active duty and Reserves are collecting data in District 8 for Sector Mobile, Sector New Orleans, Sector Houston, and Sector Corpus Christi for Eighth Coastal Region, also data collection is going on for Eighth Western Rivers and Eighth Eastern Region.

Phase 2:

Data is compiled at the marine security detachment at St. Paul. Data is uploaded to the Maritime Security Risk Analysis Model (MSRAM) which scores the sites based their probability to become launch site and a report created.

Phase 3:

Sector will conduct optional activities at select marinas and ramps. Commanders will use MSRAM reports to inform and prioritize use of resources; active. Reserve and Auxiliary. Auxiliary duties could include America's Waterway Watch visits, vessels safety checks, boating safety or training patrols. Active duty may include patrols, boarding, and local law enforcement at high priority boat launch sites.

Auxiliary OFL Coordinator Duties:

- Coordinate with district and/or Sector OFL coordinator
- Provide handbook and OFL survey requirements to local Auxiliary teams
- Delegate and distribute boat ramp and marina data to Auxiliary team members
- Seek and train Auxiliarists to conduct surveys
- Seek and train Auxiliarists to enter survey data into the input module
- Conduct surveys coincidental to routine duties and provide monthly status report to sector

Current Status:

Eighth District has completed 1,400 surveys in 11 states since May 2013.

Attachment B

State Legislation Reports – Stf/C Robert E. Canfield, JN

Summarized State Legislation Report – Region A and B

No Report:

Iowa: D/Lt/C Richard W McGaughy, JN
Maine: D/C Artemas M (Art) Pickard, SN
Maryland: P/C Howard P. Barry, Jr., JN
Massachusetts: V/C Robert J. Sweet, SN
Nebraska: Lt/C Michael J. Bahr, AP
New Hampshire: P/D/Lt/C Carl N. Johnson, SN
New Jersey: D/Lt Donald E. Baker, JN
Rhode Island: P/D/C H. Thomas Simmons, SN
Vermont: P/D/C James Spencer, Jr., SN
Wisconsin: P/D/C Ronald M. Kraase, SN

No Activity:

New Hampshire: P/D/Lt/C Carl N. Johnson, SN
North Dakota: No Representative
Website search shows no pending legislation (P/D/C Spencer)
Ohio: No Representative
Website search shows no legislation (P/D/C Spencer)
South Dakota: No Representative
No activity

Connecticut: Stf/C Sandra W. Pierog, SN

Passed bills;

HB5811	Operation of vessels with electric motors on inland waters, no boating certificate required
HB6528	Clean Marinas Act
HB6576	Sales & Use Tax on winter stored boats
PA13-184	Luxury tax repealed on boat over \$100,000

Illinois: P/D/C Richard N. Spurr, SN

- PA 98-0102 People being towed considered as passengers
Altering registration decal, class A misdemeanor
Guilty of certain areas of Act will have boating privileges suspended for one year, includes resisting officers, falsification of documents, felony titling offenses.
- HB3136 & SB1478 Both bills are concerned with age and boating certificate requirements for operating watercraft, however they do not limit to motorized vessels.
- PA 98-0103 Regards BUI and states that person operating the vessel if injured, unconscious or dead shall not be deemed to withdraw consent for a breath or urine test.

Indiana: P/C James K. Wilhite, AP

- HB1564 Extends registration requirements from 60 to 180 days for boats legally registered in other states.

Kansa: P/D/C Richard G. Stablein, SN

Taxes on boats lowered to 11.5% of assessed value in 2014, lowered to 5% in 2015

Georgia: P/R/C Lew Dance, SN

- SB316 Minimum age for PFD usage 13 years old
- Toxic vapors category added to list of alcohol and drugs
- PWC operation, 16 years minimum, no 12 year old can operate, and direct supervision (400 yds.) no longer allowed. 12 to 15 year olds with boating certificate is still allowed.
- Cannot rent boats with motors 10 HP or more to person less than 16 years old, unless they have a boating certificate.
- Covers specific levels of intoxication and sentencing levels.
- Effective July 1, 2014 a boating education course and certificate required for anyone born after January 1, 1998 to operate a motorized vessel on the water.

Michigan: P/D/C James R. Leonard, SN

Of interest to boaters:

Gov. Rick Snyder signed a bill for \$20.9 million to dredge in 58 bays and harbors used for recreational boating.

Asian Carp Invasion- Great Lakes – still an issue as Notre Dame scientists claim that DNA sampling proves that they have reached the Great Lakes.

Ferry SS Badger – The EPA has extended her continued operation deadline for 2 years to allow for development of an on board ash retention system.

Plastic bits have been found in Great Lakes, possibly from personal care products, such facial and body washes. Research ongoing to find the source and possible harm it may cause.

Minnesota: R/C Gregory E. Korstad, AP

Minnesota's Pollution Control Agency is becoming active in controlling waterway pollution due to agriculture, wastewater treatment, and ballast discharges.

As ever Asian carp issue remains and there is evidence that they are in southern Minnesota segments of the Mississippi.

New York: P/C Larry Weiss, AP

S1639A-2013 Boating safety certificate required for those born after December 31, 1996. Must be issued by USPS, USCGAux or New York State Parks Department.
