



Safety Lines

Issue 2

Winter 2020/2021

The Recent Uninspected Passenger Vessel Qualification Course at Smith Mountain Lake

Dave Gruber, DSO-MS, Fifth Southern District



Commodore Michelle Thornton presents Glen Baxter with the Century Club Award (100 Vessel Safety Checks and Recreational Boating Safety-Partner Visitations in 2019) Sept. 2, 2020, at the Smith Mountain Lake Auxiliary Detachment. Note: Uniforms were not required while attending the training. (Auxiliary Photo by Thomas Medford) *Article on page 3*

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Japanese Wakame kelp
Found in Oregon. (NOAA)

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Safety Lines

Newsletter of the Prevention Directorate USCG Auxiliary

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The COVID-19 shut down is the perfect time to visit the P-Directorate web page, discover what's new, or take a Marine Safety course.

(Photo edited by Dorothy J. Riley, image from Unsplash royalty free-to-use.)



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The Recent Uninspected Passenger Vessel Qualification Course at Smith Mountain Lake

Dave Gruber, DSO-MS, Fifth Southern District

Uninspected Passenger Vessels (UPVs) are motorized watercraft carrying not more than six (6) or twelve (12) passengers, including at least one passenger-for-hire. UPVs are classified as "Uninspected" because the U.S. Coast Guard does not inspect them. However, they are still expected to comply with the law, carry all required equipment, and have a licensed master.



Attendees of the Uninspected Passenger Vessel - Performance Qualification Standard class held in early September 2020 at the Smith Mountain Lake Auxiliary Detachment came from Virginia, Maryland and North Carolina. (Auxiliary photo by Nick Carl)

Among other requirements, the operator of a UPV must hold the appropriate Mariner Credentials ("Captain's" license), have onboard at least one Type 1 personal flotation device (PFD) per passenger, and be enrolled in a random drug testing consortium. The Auxiliary provides a complimentary safety examination for Uninspected Passenger Vessels. Like the recreational Vessel Safety Check, Auxiliarists educate the owner/master regarding compliance with the regulations.

Vessels that pass the examination receive a UPV decal for display on the vessel. Such examinations must be carried out by a trained Auxiliarist holding the AUX-UPV Qualification. Details regarding this qualification are found on the Auxiliary Prevention Directorate website.

A banner group of 12 Auxiliarists from all over Sectors Virginia, Maryland-National Capital Region (MDNCR), and North Carolina completed the AUX-UPV qualification, pending at least five (5) supervised inspections and completion of the oral

board. This accomplishment occurred through the efforts of three Division 8 Auxiliarists- Jeff Demers, Tom Merriman and me. The event was hosted by Flotilla 81 Roanoke at their Smith Mountain Lake (Moneta, Virginia) Auxiliary Detachment in September 2020.

By far, the most significant contributors to this effort were Andrew Diggs and Nick Carl, our U.S. Coast Guard Instructors from the Uninspected Branch in Norfolk. Many obstacles had to be overcome due to the Covid-19 pandemic. As the event drew near, the Coast Guard reevaluated the risk for this training type, which further delayed our classes for months. We then filed the Coast Guard Risk Assessment for Mass Gatherings forms and made mitigation assurances, such as maintaining social distances, wearing masks, using hand sanitizers and frequently cleaning surfaces (e.g., sanitizing wipes).

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Coast Guard member Andrew Diggs instructs during the Performance Qualification Standard class held September 2020 at the Smith Mountain Lake Auxiliary Detachment. Note: Uniforms were not required. (Auxiliary photo by Nick Carl)

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As the September 2020 event approached, we developed a list of local fishing guides and contacted them. We had to convince them to take time away from their busy charter boat season to help us with our training and allow us to inspect their vessels for UPV compliance. We managed to keep the time to conduct each UPV Examination to less than 30 minutes per vessel. It was extremely gratifying to

realize how receptive and prepared these captains were. They all had their Mariner's Credentials, Type I PFDs, verification that they were enrolled in a random drug testing consortium, and their vessels passed muster.

Extra kudos go out to Fred Lane, Flotilla Commander and Tom Merriman, both of Flotilla 81 Roanoke for ensuring that the AUXDET was in prime shape for us before our arrival. Jeff Demers prepared us all grilled hot dogs and hamburgers on the first day. Then, to top it all off, our Commodore Michelle Thornton drove from Smithfield, Virginia, to bring us lunch and moral support on the second. Her five-hour drive each way certainly made all of us feel

extra special, significant and added support to the event.

On behalf of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, I thank the Coast Guard for their support. Rest assured that all of us who made this event happen, including the participants, will be forever appreciative. I am confident that we will devotedly implement our obligations with our new AUX-UPV qualification credentials. Ω

Marine Safety Training Program



Like the three-pronged Marine Safety Insignia shown above, the Marine Safety Training Program, formerly known as the Trident Training Program, is a three-pronged training, consisting of education, qualifications and service. Courses required include Introduction to Marine Safety and Environmental Protection (a two-point AUXOP course), Good Mate, ICS 100, 200, 210 or 300, 700 and 800. Members must earn four qualifications from a list of 24 found on the Prevention Directorate website and then provide a minimum of 96 hours of service each year for five years as recorded in AUXDATA. This Marine Safety Insignia indicates a high degree of knowledge, proficiency and dedication, as well as professionalism on the part of the wearer. Ω

D5 NR Marine Safety Virtual Training During Covid-19 Stand Down

Gregg Bollinger, DSO-MS, District 5 North

The Marine Safety Department of District 5 Northern Region (D5 NR) elected to combat the Covid-19 stand down's inactivity by offering two virtual training sessions. The first was a class on Aquatic Nuisance Species developed by Gregg Bollinger, District Staff Officer- Marine Safety, with technical assistance provided by Rick Young, Commander, Flotilla 19-4 Lancaster, Pennsylvania. The course was first offered March 26, 2020, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:20 p.m. to Flotilla 19-4. Eight members participated in the one hour and twenty minute program. They determined that this time slot would give some members something constructive to do during the quarantine-in-place

in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The presentation was designed with questions embedded throughout the content. Very productive and informative discussion ensued when members posed questions.

If the presentation to Flotilla 19-4 Lancaster could be considered "off-Broadway," the "show" premiered "on-Broadway" May 6, 2020, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the district level with 56 Auxiliarists participating in the same format that was employed with Flotilla 19-4.

After mentioning the Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) class during the P-Directorate conference call May 27, 2020, Dave Gruber, DSO-MS, asked for permission to use the ANS presentation with an upcoming Sea Scout training session in July.

Another online virtual training session was held May 19, 2020, for all D5 NR Marine Safety personnel in response to the district's request to conduct Appointed Officer Training for all departments online. Gregg Bollinger, DSO-MS, developed a presentation that covered the duties, outlooks, information, and strategies for the benefit of all MS officers, while Maurice Kieley, ADSO-Marine Safety, Commercial Fishing Vessel Examiner (CFVE), gave a presentation on the CFVE program. Rick Taylor, Division 19 Commander, provided technical support. Ω



Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) are found throughout the U.S. in both salt and fresh waters. Top: Snakehead fish is a pervasive invasive nuisance. Photo from Wikipedia Commons
Bottom: Zebra mussels are introduced from ballast discharge and by 'hitch-hiking' on ship's hulls. Photo courtesy of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

T.R.A.I.N.

Gregg Bollinger, DSO-MS, District 5 North



On June 23, 2020, I wrote and passed the following message down the Marine Safety chain of leadership and management. It was meant to be an inspirational boost for our members during the COVID-19 stand down.

It may seem during the COVID-19 stand down that there is no opportunity to train for our respective duties as Marine Safety (MS) officers and in the other departments in which many of you serve. This will be the reality until we get the order that the stand down is over and we may resume our normal operational tempo. Note that there have been and continue to be excellent online or virtual training opportunities to increase our knowledge and expertise, of which many of you have availed yourself. Mission-specific training in conducting Commercial Fishing Vessel Examinations (CFVE), MS booths, road/beach cleanups, etc. and recreational boating vessel exams, About Boating Safety classes, Public Affairs events, Recreational Boating Safety Partner Visitations, and patrols have not been able to take place.

What I would propose as at least a partial solution to this state of affairs would be for all of us to **T.R.A.I.N.** or **Think, Recall, Adapt, Improve, Numerate**. This strategy was inspired by accounts of some of the brave heroes of the Vietnam War who had the misfortune to be held as prisoners of war (P.O.W.), some, for many long years at a time. It is documented that some of them adopted a psychological coping mechanism to deal with their imprisonment and the torture that often accompanied it.

That coping mechanism was to imagine something pleasant and enjoyable, such as a day at the beach with a girlfriend or wife, in as much detail as possible to remember it, with gaps in their memories filled-in with something from their imagination. One P.O.W. said that he mentally "built" the house he and his wife would live in once repatriated. His visualization included hammering every nail and every other task of building the house. Engaging in this mental activity kept these men going despite living out the nightmarish experience of being a P.O.W.

You and I can implement the same mental techniques to conduct "virtual training" without a computer or phone while paying tribute to the brave men who sacrificed their freedom, health and in some instances, their lives in the service of our country. Here's how we can **T.R.A.I.N.**, and by no means are the following suggestions authoritative or exhaustive of all the possibilities: **THINK** about a CFVE, MS booth, cleanup or patrol, PV or VE mission and establish in your mind - or perhaps better still - write down as you think, what that mission is to accomplish, where it will be

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conducted, who will be involved, etc. Start by doing an imaginary GAR to ensure safety is observed. This can be as detailed as you desire.

RECALL how previous missions were conducted. Make mental or written notes of what went well and what did not.

ADAPT your current mental plan based upon what you want to change from the way the previous mission was conducted.

INVENT new strategies for conducting your “mental

mission.” Who knows, there may be ideas you can implement once the stand down ends.

Another way to look at this would be to “take those things I’ve always wanted to try out” in a mission situation or that you have thought would be beneficial to try but have never done. Doing this as a mental activity means that any repercussions are strictly “virtual,” as is the whole mission.



Illustrations for this article by Dorothy J. Riley. Photographs used to create the illustrations are member photos from this and previous editions of *Safety Lines* and royalty free-to-use images from *Unsplash* and *Pixabay*.

Lastly, **NUMERATE**, which was the only word I could come up with to get across the idea of the last step, namely to “record” or keep track of your mental mission that started with the letter “N.” It would be a good idea to write down everything you think about as you come up with it. This last step would probably lend itself to revision and polishing. It would be following this step that you would want to evaluate how well the “mission” went. Remember, it’s your idea so you can make it turn out whatever way you want.

You may even want to “file” an imaginary 7029 or 7030 form for your mission - we could all probably use

some practice with the new AUXDATA II system. Here’s hoping you can **T.R.A.I.N.** soon. Have a successful mission! Ω

Safety Alert 15-18

Commercial passenger vessels and recreational diving

(Don’t let your divers down!)

<http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=P-DEPT&category=WHATSNEW>

(Must be signed in to access page content.)

Art During the Pandemic

Dorothy J. Riley, BC-POT, editor, "Signal Lines"

Art is my vehicle for self-expression. While most of my art depicts beautiful scenery or people I find interesting, I also use it to express feelings about events and situations I cannot find words to describe.

The COVID-19 pandemic is such a situation. This painting honors all of our citizens deemed "essential" workers, who, before this pandemic, were often largely ignored, or because many of these workers earn minimum wage or barely above, received little thanks or respect. They include butchers, meat packers, and store clerks in addition to the more readily recognized first responders and medical personnel.



When the country shut down, many would have preferred to stay home, but as "essential workers," they had to go to work anyway. For this reason, I call them "conscripts." Thousands of essential workers succumbed to COVID-19 and many members of the Auxiliary work in these crucial service positions. ***We- All of us- Thank you!***

These paintings are not in my usual style. I tend to paint more realistically but chose to do these in a looser form. Hopefully, this style better portrays the rawness, while the use of bright colors honors our 'conscripts.' Ω

Top: "Covid-19 Conscripts," 9"x 12" pastel on sanded paper. Bottom: "Social Distancing, 9"x 12" pastel on sanded paper by Dorothy Joan Riley.



Want To Try Something New? Then check out Marine Safety and Environmental Protection in the Prevention Directorate!

Deborah S. Johnson, DVC-PO

The Prevention mission is to plan and administer Auxiliary programs to support the needs and activities of the Coast Guard Prevention and Response Departments, which are part of the Coast Guard Operations Directorate.

So how does the Auxiliary support the Prevention mission? What types of activities are available to members? We are authorized to engage in three categories of activities: 1) public outreach, 2) member training and activities and 3) Sector augmentation as needed and requested by the Sectors. Think “Soup to Nuts”! We can support marine environmental response in salt and freshwater locales, assist with port safety and security inspections or commercial vessel safety/security inspections and examinations, container inspections and MISLE support (Maritime Information for Safety and Law Enforcement). Or members might be assisting with waterways management and navigation systems, training Active Duty, Auxiliary or the general public in any of the Sea Partners programs, including America’s Waterway Watch or other environmental issues. Outreach we perform through our Public Affairs, Public Education, Partner Visitations, or Vessel Examination programs can – and should – include discussion and provision of information on all aspects of Prevention. There is a lot of material that supports many kinds of outreach activities beyond our standard Public Education courses!

OK – I’m interested – how do I get trained? What do I need to know?

The Prevention training program includes three parts. Not all are required to participate in Prevention programs and activities. Suppose a member is interested in earning the Marine Safety Insignia. In that case, the entire program is required. If, however, someone is interested only in working with America’s Waterway Watch (AWW), for example, then they would need only the background education and knowledge of the AWW program.

The first part of the Marine Safety/Marine Environmental Protection (MS/MEP) training program is the education component – you should know something about marine safety and environmental protection if you want to assist in Prevention missions professionally and responsibly. Two online courses are available to members through the national Prevention website (pdept.cgaux.org). The first is called *Introduction to Marine Safety and*

Environmental Protection (IMSEP) – it counts as two points toward the Auxiliary AUXOP designation. This course is the basic MS/MEP training and should be taken by any member interested in working in Prevention. The second course, *Good Mate*, is available at the same location. It deals with clean boating and clean marina information and is relevant to all Auxiliary missions. ICS 100, 200, 210 or 300, 700 and 800 are also required for operational MS/MEP missions.

The second part of the MS/MEP program involves on-the-job training (OJT) with a mentor. There are 24 Personal Qualification Standards (PQSs) available to fulfill the Marine Safety Insignia, and each candidate must earn at least four. (The list of Performance Qualification Standards is on the national Prevention Directorate webpages.) Two of these - Marine Safety Administrative and Management Specialist (MSAM) and Prevention Outreach Specialist (MEES) - are Auxiliary-only, which means only Auxiliary Verifying Officers holding that qualification may sign off on the PQS. Not all qualifications are offered within a district – only those useful to the sectors within the district will be available to the members. Suppose a member is not interested in earning the Marine Safety Insignia, but wishes to work only with single missions, such as Container Inspections, Port State Dispatch office or Outreach programs. In that case, the member does not need to earn four qualifications – the member may take training in only that area of interests.

Many areas open to Auxiliarists in Prevention do not require any additional training beyond the basic education courses. Once members have completed one qualification of their choosing, they may apply for the Marine Safety Training Ribbon (MSTR). The application is found on the national website under Marine Safety.

All service in Prevention is highly valued – whether or not the member is working to earn the Insignia. This is a five-year career path in the U.S. Coast Guard, so Auxiliary assistance is becoming increasingly important as a force multiplier. Staff Officer positions at any level are another way to serve by helping to promote and manage the Prevention programs. There are activities available to everyone, regardless of age or physical capability. The opportunities for learning and working with others to promote marine safety and environmental protection are limited only by your desire and imagination! Join the fun – meet others and learn something new! Ω

Beach Cleanup Guidelines

Prevention Directorate Issues Guidelines to Keep Members Safe.

Beach and marina cleanup initiatives have gained in popularity and align well with the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary's marine safety and environmental protection missions. Nationwide, Auxiliary members both participate in and sponsor these local events encouraged by the North American Marine Environmental Protection Association (NAMEPA) and its partners, which include the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association, the United States Coast Guard, and the Ocean Conservancy.

Due to this rise in both popularity and local participation, the Coast Guard Auxiliary's Prevention Directorate, in consultation with the National Executive Committee, published the 'Beach Cleanup Guidelines.' This guideline is not a Coast Guard guidance document but was developed for use by members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary when participating in Auxiliary or non-Auxiliary sponsored beach cleanup projects. You can download and print a copy at http://www.uscgaux.info/Uploads_wow/P-DEPT/Cleanup_4page_v9.pdf

During the COVID-19 pandemic, remember to wear face masks and to maintain social distancing guidelines. Ω

