



# For Safety's Sake

Volume VII Issue 3

Fall 2014

## V-Directorate: A Winning Team!

Dorothy Riley, BC-VCP



***V Directorate***

***Vessel***

***Examinations***

***Partner Visitation***

***Michael S. Klacik,***

***Director***

***Perry R. Taylor***

***Deputy Director***



Michael Klacik, Director, V-Directorate and Dottie Riley, Branch Chief-Communications-Publications, accept the Meritorious Team Commendation from Admiral Paul Zukunft, Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard (far left) and Rear Admiral Korn, Commander, Seventh Coast Guard District (far right) at the Coast Guard Auxiliary National Conference held Sept. 21-24, 2014, in Orlando. Auxiliary photograph by Joseph Giannattasio, BC-ASP

With the presentation of awards at the National Conference held September 2014 in Orlando, Fla., the V-Directorate proved it had a winning team.

While there is some debate what defines a winning team, several elements are widely accepted. These include strong leadership, encouraging the involvement and inclusion of its members, having clear goals and an action plan to achieve these goals, and a willingness to take risks.

These characteristics truly define the V-Directorate leadership and staff.

Michael Klacik, Director, and Perry Taylor, Deputy Director, 2013-2014, demonstrate integrity and competence and inspire trust and respect. Communication within the directorate is open and staff members know that their leaders listen to them, hear their concerns, and value their contributions. The V-Directorate clearly communicates the program's goals

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to its staff and bring security and effectiveness to the team.

As leaders of the V-Directorate, Klacik and Taylor are willing to take risks. An example is when approached by a staff member to produce three Public Service Announcements, a mission usually performed by the Public Affairs Directorate, Klacik coordinated

with the A-Directorate to make it a reality. The outcome is the Shaw Grigsby Public Service Announcement series for which team members received a Meritorious Team Commendation.

Members of the V-Directorate staff earned a host of awards. To express our pride in the accomplishments of our staff, we list these awards and the names of recipients. We are proud of our winning team! ❁

## National V-Directorate Team and Individual Staff Awards Presented At Nacon 2014



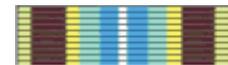
**Meritorious Team Commendation:**

*National USPS/CG Aux PV Implementation Team:*

- Michael S. Klacik, DIR-V
- Perry R. Taylor, DIR-Vd
- Vincent Cerverizzo, DVC-VP
- Joseph C. Reichal Jr., BC-VPP
- John R. Raab, BA-VPP
- Kelly L. Townsend, DIR-B
- Stephen A. Ellerin, DVC-BL

*“Shaw Grigsby” PSA Team*

- Michael S. Klacik, DIR-V
- Dorothy J. Riley, BC-VCP
- George C. Papabeis, District 7
- Charles C. Truthan, District 7
- Donald E. Jones, District 7



**Auxiliary Commandant Letter of Commendation:**

- Norman Hoffman, BC-VTO
- Andrew Render, DVC-VE
- Mark H. Wirtz, Former DVC-VI



**Auxiliary Achievement Medal:**

- Joseph C. Reichal Jr., BC-VPP



**Auxiliary Commendation Medal:**

- Perry R. Taylor, DIR-Vd
- Paul J. Mayer Jr., Former DVC-VC



**Auxiliary Meritorious Service Medal:**

- Michael S. Klacik, DIR-V



## *National Awards Trifecta: Flotilla 10-13 Wyckoff, N.J. Sweeps Top Honors!*

Michael Klacik, DIR-V

For the first time in history, one flotilla has taken top honors by earning three National Recreational Boating Safety awards.

Flotilla 10-13 Wyckoff, N.J., D1SR, showed what commitment, motivation, and a desire to make a difference could achieve. Their members' dedication to Recreational Boating Safety was recently recognized at NACON 2014 in Orlando, Florida.

Flotilla 10-13 was presented the National V-Directorate's "First Place Award for Overall Performance Excellence in Vessel Safety Checks" and the "First Place Award for Overall Performance Excellence in Visitation Programs" for 2013. Michele Rollino, Immediate Past Flotilla Commander, along with Commodore Vincent T. Pica, District 1SR, accepted the awards on behalf of the flotilla. The flotilla also ranked fifth for Vessel Safety Checks and second for Visitation Programs in 2012.

Additionally, for the second year in a row, Flotilla 10-13 received the National Association of Commodores Award for the "Best Flotilla in Vessel Safety Checks and Marine Dealer Visits in 2013." Commodore Edward Livingston, President

of the National Association of Commodores, presented the award to Michele Rollino, Immediate Past Flotilla Commander. The Marine Retailers Association of America sponsor this award.

Also recognized for their outstanding contributions to Recreational Boating Safety was Flotilla 20-12, Detroit, Mich., D9CR, awarded the "Second Place Award for Overall Performance Excellence in Vessel Safety Checks." Flotilla 20-12 ranked fourth in Vessel Safety Checks in 2012. Commodore Llorens W. Chenevert, District 9CR, accepted the award on behalf



**ORLANDO, Fla.-COMO Edward Livingston, President, National Association of Commodores, presents Michele Rollino, Immediate Past Flotilla Commander 10-13, Wyckoff, N.J., D1SR, "Best Flotilla in Vessel Safety Checks and Marine Dealer Visits in 2013" at the National Conference in September 2014. This is the second year that the flotilla earned this award sponsored by the Marine Retailers Association of America. Auxiliary photo by Joe Giannattasio**

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of the flotilla.

The “Second Place Award for Overall Performance Excellence in Visitation Programs” was awarded to Flotilla 53, Depoe Bay, Ore.,

D13. Flotilla 53 continues to be one of the top three flotillas nationally in Visitation Programs. Their dedica-

tion to Recreational Boating Safety is well recognized and appreciated. Commodore Dean Wimer, D13, accepted the award on behalf of Flotilla 53.

I want to express my deepest appreciation to all the flotillas and members nationwide who represent our Vessel Safety Check and Visitation Programs every year. You are the heart and soul of these programs and the reason they are successful. Bravo Zulu to all of you and to our award winners. Semper Paratus! ✪



**Top left: ORLANDO, Fla.- Michael Klacik, Director-Vessel Examinations presents the “Second Place Award for Overall Performance Excellence in Vessel Safety Checks” to Flotilla 20-12, Detroit, Mich., D9CR, to COMO Llorens W. Chenevert, D9CR, who accepted the award on behalf of the flotilla. Auxiliary photo by Joe Giannattasio**



**Bottom left: ORLANDO, Fla.- Michael Klacik, Director-Vessel Examinations presents the “Second Place Award for Overall Performance Excellence in Visitation Programs” to Flotilla 53, Depoe Bay, Ore. COMO Dean Wimer, D13, accepted the award on behalf of Flotilla 53. Auxiliary photo by Joe Giannattasio**



# 2014 Vessel Safety Check Decal Distribution Program

Andrew J. Render, Division Chief-Vessel Safety Check

Since a good bit of the boating season is drawing to a close in many parts of the country, this is a good time to review the 2014 Vessel Safety Check Decal distribution plan.

During both 2012 and 2013 we depleted our stock of decals in August of each year. The problem wasn't that we ordered too few decals. Last year we distributed 223,000 decals to our Vessel Examiners yet only 93,000 were actually awarded to boaters who passed their Vessel Safety Check (VSC). That left an additional 130,000 "unused" decals! Something needed to be done....

For the 2014 distribution process, we calculated the total number of VSCs each individual flotilla conducted in a twelve-month period (that's the total number of VSCs-not just the ones that passed!) We then increased that by another 10% and rounded that up to the next ten. For example, let's say your flotilla conducted 93 vessel checks and "issued" 68 decals. In 2014 your flotilla was shipped 110 decals (93 plus 9 <10%> equals 102 decals and then rounded that up to the next 10). Your flotilla was shipped 110 decals.

Additionally, based on the number of certified Vessel Examiners in

each division, we issued additional decals to most Division Vessel Examination staff officers. These decals were to be forwarded to flotillas who had a special need to get more decals in a hurry.

Once 50% of a flotilla's decals were issued, additional decals could be ordered through the chain of parallel staffing. We also gave additional authority to district staff officers to order decals for special events. In fact, one district requested 700 additional decals in August. We had sufficient decals in stock to meet their need. Had they requested the additional decals in 2012 or 2013, there would not have been enough decals left to ship to them.

This new distribution process MAY take some getting used to... we can no longer just hand everyone a stack of decals and then order more. Consider distributing decals within your flotilla similar to the way we distributed them. It only makes sense to give our active Vessel Examiners more decals than those who only award two or three decals each year.

Our Vessel Safety

Check program is an important facet of boating safety and we need to continue to find new and effective ways to help the program work. All of us in the V-Directorate appreciate the time and effort you put into the Vessel Examiner program. ⚓

**To learn more, read the summary of our presentation at NACON 2014**

[http://vdept.cgaux.org/pdf-files/VE and PV Presentation-NACON 2014.pdf](http://vdept.cgaux.org/pdf-files/VE%20and%20PV%20Presentation-NACON%202014.pdf)





# WE'RE BEING BOARDED BY THE COAST GUARD

## ...Now What?

Vincent Pica, District Commodore, First District, Southern Region



**JACKSONVILLE, Fla.-**Petty Officer 2nd Class Bobby Hitchcock, a maritime enforcement specialist stationed at Coast Guard Station Mayport, Fla., speaks with Howard Cheesman, a mariner, during a vessel boarding April 25, 2014, in the St. Johns River. The boarding was conducted to ensure mariners have all essential safety gear. (U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Anthony L. Soto)

If you've ever seen the reflection of the blue-rotating hailing light in the reflection of your windshield, you've felt the quickening in certain parts of your body... "Jeez, what did I do wrong?" The United States Coast Guard can and will board you at their discretion. They need no search warrant, no provocation, and no reason other than, "Good Morning, sir. My name is Officer Jones with the U.S. Coast Guard. The Coast Guard is here today to ensure you are in compliance with all applicable federal laws and regulations."

### What Happens First?

First, you will be impressed by their youthfulness and their polite, professional demeanor. These are highly trained federal officers. And the very first question that they will ask you, before they even step off their vessel onto yours, is, "Without reaching for them or touching them, do you have any weapons

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on board?” Subtly but powerfully, the tone is set: “I am polite. I am professional. I mean business.” Let’s assume (and hope) that the answer to that question is “no,” since I would need a lot more space than this column if the answer is “yes.”

### **What Happens Next?**

The inspection that follows is driven largely by the size of the vessel, with a few standard exceptions. Your actual registration needs to be aboard and current. The “HIN” number, like your car’s “VIN” number, needs to be the same on your registration and on your boat (low on the starboard side of the transom.) If they don’t match, someone has a lot of explaining to do. The registration numbers must be of proper size (at least 3”), of contrasting color to your hull and be the most forward of any numbering or lettering on the boat. If you have an “MSD” (Marine Sanitation Device, aka a “head” or toilet), regardless of the size of your vessel, it must conform to regulations. All the bays and creeks in the Northeast are “No Discharge Zones,” so if there is an overboard through-hull from the MSD holding tank, it must be in the locked/closed position and the key must be under the control of the skipper. It can be seized closed or, lastly, the handle can be removed and it must be in the closed position.

The rest is largely going to be driven by the size of your vessel:

How many personal flotation devices (life jackets)? – at least one for everybody aboard, in good working order and readily available

Fire Extinguishers – boat size dependent, but all must be in working order

Flares – all must be “good to go,” i.e. unexpired!

And so on and so forth...

### **What Happens Then?**

Well, there are three outcomes from here. First and best, you will get a Report of Boarding and it is marked, “No violations.” You are good to go. Secondly, your Report of Boarding could be marked “Written Warning” about some violation that has not risen to the level of Notice of Violation. One caveat: If the boarding officer returns to the station and finds that you already have been given a warning for the same issue, your notice becomes a Violation. That is also the third outcome that could happen right at the boat – a “Notice of Violation” is issued. There are two general outcomes from here.

If the boarding officer believes that the nature of the violation is inherently unsafe, you will be directed to follow the Coast Guard back to the dock. They are not going to allow you to keep fishing or sailing with some aspect of your boat that can lead to serious injury or death to you, your crew or other boaters.

Secondly, it can take on the aspect of a driving violation. The notice is

mailed to the Coast Guard hearing office in Portsmouth, VA. There the boarding report will be reviewed by a case officer where fines, further letters of violations, etc. will be issued. You will be notified by mail and you will have time (15 days) to file an appeal.

### **How to Avoid All This?**

Well, the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary conducts free (your favorite price) vessel exams all season long – and they are not enforcement events. If your boat “fails” virtually the same inspection that would be conducted by the regulars, you get a report that details the deficiency – and the examiner’s cell phone number. He or she will tell you, “When you have this addressed, call me. I will come down and re-run the examination.” This results in a USCGAux sticker of compliance being affixed to your windshield or hull. Did I mention the price? Free.

Visit [safetyseal.net/GetVSC/](http://safetyseal.net/GetVSC/).

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# Observations of a Paddle Craft Safety Instructor

Dana Kirk, BC-VEP



Photo by the USCG Boating Safety Resource Center

As a certified American Canoe Association (ACA) instructor, I spent this past summer teaching a variety of paddle craft skills courses in Fairport Harbor, Ohio, at Lake Metro Parks. I had a very enjoyable albeit eye-opening summer observing all of the different paddlers and their vessels.

One observation was personal flotation devices, which was the first thing that I noticed every time. Either many people did not wear one or they wore one not buckled or zipped. What struck me even more was speaking to people who had purchased fanny packs to wear without any idea how they work!

Other observations included watching as an adult put a child with her into the cockpit of a kayak meant for one person, or watching as the United States Coast Guard rescued a person who could not get back into his kayak. After the Coast Guard safely delivered him back to the beach, I asked him if he had ever heard of a T-rescue. Neither he nor his girlfriend had.

***What does any of this have to do with the Auxiliary?***

We teach the *Paddle Sports America* (PSA) course designed specifically for paddlers. It is similar to the

*About Boating Safely* course but geared specifically towards paddleboats like kayaks and canoes.

Every Vessel Safety Check on a paddleboat is an opportunity to invite paddle boaters to attend a PSA course while every Program Visit is an occasion to present literature about these classes.

We cannot ignore paddleboat safety. Paddlesports are the fastest growing segment of recreational boating with more than 300,000 paddlecraft sold annually. Both new and inexperienced paddlers should seek out paddler education before heading out on the water.

Paddle boaters can also conduct a “virtual Vessel Safety Check” at <http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=V-DEPT&category=paddle-craft>. After completing the self-examination, paddlers can request an actual Vessel Safety Check from a qualified Vessel Examiner by using the “I Want a VSC” link on the left hand side of the page and entering their zip code. ❄

***Have you conducted a successful Paddle Sports America course? If so, please share your experience with the author, Dana Kirk, the V-Directorate Branch Chief-Paddlesports and certified instructor for the American Canoe Association. She is most interested in knowing what worked for you, how you promoted the course, where you presented, etc.***



# Paddle Ready: New App for Paddle Boaters!

D. Riley, BC-VCP

The American Canoe Association (ACA) introduced a new app, *Paddle Ready*, designed for paddlers who want to have fun and stay safe on the water.

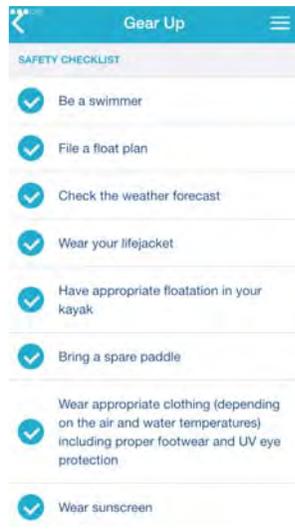
Free on the Apple App Store and Google Play and endorsed by the Coast Guard Office of Boating Safety, *Paddle Ready* allows users to get real-time environmental coverage for various paddling venues, fill out a float plan and easily send it to friends, search for ACA instructors and courses, and have important safety and rescue information at their fingertips.

To get started, for example with the “Gear Up” link, the app asks users to enter their vessel type and water environment; i.e., kayak, canoe, stand-up paddleboard, and environments such as flat water, white water, coastal, etc. The app then generates a safety checklist corresponding the selected vessel and environment.

The “Environment” link offers real-time conditions for local water bodies including weather conditions. Paddlers have the ability to file a float plan and send it to a friend or family member, links to local law enforcement and boating safety organizations, the ability to find instructors or classes and other

useful information.

When conducting Vessel Safety Check on paddleboats, in addition to reminding owners to affix the vessel identification sticker for canoes, kayaks and rowboats, you may wish to draw their attention to this new app! 🌀



Screenshots of the new app, “Paddle Ready”



**Lower right:** Vessel identification stickers are used to locate the owners of small crafts such as kayaks, canoes and rowboats when the vessels get lost or loose from their moorings. An owner should use a water-resistant grease pen to write their contact information on the sticker and adhere it to the side of the vessel. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Matthew Masaschi.



# THINGS THAT WORK!

## Flotilla 11-10 Dunedin, Fla., Revitalizes Its Vessel Examiner Program

Karen Miller, Division Commander 11, District 7

Sometimes, what works is not innovation, but the 'tried and true.' Flotilla 11-10 Dunedin, Florida, proved this when they focused on reinvigorating their Vessel Examinations program.

visited every Public Education class to speak directly to boat operators about the importance of vessel safety checks.

The re-energized team flourished which resulted in outstanding individual achievements, a record-high total of exams for the team, and a true sense of camaraderie.

Moral of the story: In the absence of new and innovative approaches, focus on the 'tried and true' to revitalize a flotilla's Vessel Examinations program! ✿

Frederick Trent Peruche, Flotilla Staff Officer-Vessel Examinations, and other members organized a Vessel Examiner team with clearly stated goals and objectives, and infused team members with a friendly spirit of teamwork, cooperation and friendly competition.

In 2014 alone, they added eight new Vessel Examiners and inspired an inactive Vessel Examiner to recertify. This larger cadre of examiners made it possible for the flotilla to extend services to

two boat clubs and two additional marinas, and to have a monthly presence at a public boat ramp.

To raise public awareness of the availability of vessel exams, team members participated in all of the flotilla's Public Affairs events, distributed literature, and presented an outreach program to Duke Energy employees. At least one examiner



DUNEDIN, Fla.-Members of Flotilla 11-10 Dunedin, advertise their revitalized Vessel Examination program at ramps, in Public Education programs... and even on their vessels! Auxiliary photo provided by Karen Miller, DCDR 11, D7

*Note: Over 20% of Flotilla 11-10 Dunedin members participate in the Vessel Examination Program. The last nine names on the list at right were added in 2014.*

### Flotilla 11-10 Dunedin Vessel Examination Team

- Bonnem, Robert
- Burgess, Edward
- Casale, Cono
- Clark, Elaine
- Clark, William
- DuBois, Richard
- Peruche, Frederick
- Prior, Harvey
- Cook, Jene
- Gilbert, Lawrence
- Leimbach, Allen
- Loughlin, Thomas
- Mogavero, Carl
- Montembeault, Roger
- Olson, Charles
- Townsend, William
- Tyrkala, John



## Vessel Examiners- Is Your Certification Current?

Andrew J. Render, DVC-VE - PDCP

We thought this might be a good time to bring everyone up to date on how we are progressing with our Vessel Examiners (VE) completing the required workshop.

On the July Auxiliary Data System (AUXDATA) run, we had 1,169 VEs who had not completed the required workshop. Since then, that number has dropped to 932. We presently have 118 VEs who have completed the workshop and are awaiting DIRAUX approval to reinstate their certification.

To recertify, a Vessel Examiner must complete the 2014 workshop and then follow your District's procedures to have the DIRAUX administrator make the necessary changes in AUXDATA to remove them from REWK status. VEs who have not completed the workshop by the end of the year will automatically transfer to REYR status. These individuals must complete the required workshop as well as the required supervised examinations to be eligible for recertification.

There is an additional concern that of the 506 new Vessel Examiners who certified this year, 55 have slipped into REWK and need to complete the workshop. I know that we are all anxious to bring each of our VEs back into 'current' status. If there is anything we can do to

assist you, please do not hesitate to let me know.

*Note: REYR indicates that you did not complete your currency maintenance, underway hours, or checks (i.e., Vessel Exams), depending on the competency certified for the previous or previous years. REWK indicates that you did not complete the appropriate workshop, if required for that year.*



The new Vessel Safety Check Manual is here! Click on the image to download or visit:

[http://www.uscg.mil/directives/cim/16000-16999/CIM\\_16796\\_8A.pdf](http://www.uscg.mil/directives/cim/16000-16999/CIM_16796_8A.pdf)

**UNITED STATES COAST GUARD  
AUXILIARY**

**2014 VESSEL EXAMINER  
REQUIRED ANNUAL WORKSHOP**




Prepared by the  
NATIONAL DIRECTORATE OF VESSEL EXAMINATION  
AND RECREATIONAL BOATING SAFETY PARTNER VISITATION

1

The required Vessel Examinations workshop can be found at:

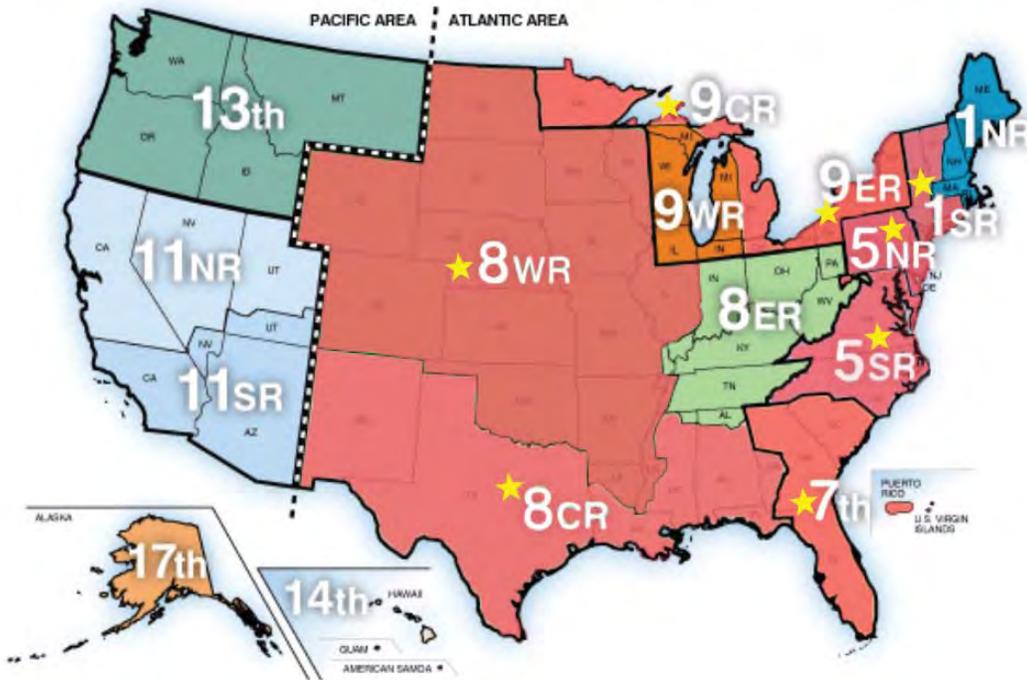
<http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=V-DEPT&category=WORKSHOPS>

If you have not done so already, click on the link and complete the course now!



# Is your district's star on our map?

## U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY AREAS, DISTRICTS, AND REGIONS



The starred districts with the red overlays are those whose articles, videos or photos have appeared in issues of *For Safety's Sake* from our first issue in 2013 to the present. *Is your district's star on our map?*

What has your flotilla done to promote Vessel Safety Checks and Program Visits? We want to hear from you! See submission guidelines below.

*For Safety's Sake* communicates news and information both up and down the chain of leadership and management. It is a vehicle for V-Directorate's division and branch chiefs to relay program changes and new information to our Vessel Examiners and Recreational Boating Safety Program Visitors. It is also a means by which we can publish and applaud the creativity and accomplishments of our members.

Innovations do not always originate at the top. Often, they originate at flotilla and division levels. What has your flotilla done to promote Vessel Safety Checks and Recreational Boating Safety Program Visits? What have you done to deliver the Boating Safety message?

We have amazingly creative members who take advantage of the tried and true as well as new venues and activities to get out the message. *For Safety's Sake*

*wants to hear about what you are doing!* We also need photographs of Vessel Safety Checks and Program Visits.

Send your articles and photos to: [dottieriley1@verizon.net](mailto:dottieriley1@verizon.net).

When sending photographs, please send them as attachments. Do not embed photographs in a document. Be sure to tell us who is in the photo, when and where it was taken, what is depicted, and tell us who took the picture. Get your flotilla some national recognition! Send us your best ideas to share with others. 🌟