



# Press Release

For more information, please contact:

Aux. Richard Myrick  
Division Chief - Vessel Examinations  
United States Coast Guard Auxiliary  
[DVCVE@AOL.com](mailto:DVCVE@AOL.com)  
585-964-7435

## Coast Guard Auxiliary announces the start of Vessel Safety Check Mega Weeks, May 19th through July 8th

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary has announced that its annual **Vessel Safety Check Mega Weeks** will run from May 19 through July 8, 2007. The primary goal of this annual campaign, which coincides with the beginning of National Safe Boating Week, is to help increase recreational boating safety by ensuring that boats are in compliance with all Federal, State and local equipment requirements.

"Safe boats save lives," said Peter Urgola, Chief of the Vessel Examinations Department for the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. Urgola's staff estimates that only 3 out of 4 vessels meet the legal requirements for safety equipment. Last year less than 2 percent of the number of registered boats in this United States took advantage of this free program.

A Vessel Safety Check (VSC) is a free voluntary examination, and covers items normally reviewed by Coast Guard boarding officers, or local law enforcement. In addition to reviewing the boat for equipment compliance, the trained Coast Guard Auxiliary Vessel Examiner will discuss the purpose and value of required and recommended safety equipment, answer any boating-related safety questions, and encourage additional education by attending any of a number Coast Guard Auxiliary safety or boating skills courses.

They will also discuss issues relating to Maritime Domain Awareness and the specifics of the **America's Waterway Watch** program, a key component for helping America stay safe. For more details on the America's Waterway Watch program, visit [www.americaswaterwaywatch.org](http://www.americaswaterwaywatch.org).

Urgola says the Vessel Safety Check program is intended to serve as a "prevention through education, outreach and compliance" activity and to help recreational boaters gain a respect for the boating environment. A VSC is not a law enforcement action. No official report is made to any law enforcement authority, and boaters will not incur any penalties if they do not pass the VSC.

The dates, times and locations of Vessel Safety Check stations will be available from your local U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla. To find the flotilla near you, visit <http://ff.cgaux.org/>. In addition, schedule information can be obtained at many local marine retailers and marinas. While visiting these retailers, ask them for details on equipment discounts being offered in support of the Vessel Safety Check program.

Boaters may also contact a vessel examiner directly by visiting [www.safetyseal.net](http://www.safetyseal.net) or its mirror site, <http://vesselsafetycheck.org/>, and clicking on the "I Want A VSC" button, or they can call 1-877-875-6296.

- ### -

---

**National Safe Boating Week is May 19th-25th. Join the Coast Guard Auxiliary in keeping America's waterways safe by ensuring your vessel is compliant with all safety standards.**

**And remember - to be a survivor - WEAR YOUR LIFE JACKET!!!**

*The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary is composed of uniformed volunteers who assist the Coast Guard in all of its varied missions, except for military and direct law enforcement. These men and women can be found performing a variety of missions - on the nation's waterways, in the air, in classrooms and on the dock, performing Maritime Domain Awareness patrols, safety patrols, vessel safety checks and public education.*

*The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary was founded in 1939 by an Act of Congress as the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve and re-designated as the Auxiliary in 1941. Over 27,000 members donate millions of hours annually in support of Coast Guard missions.*

For more information on the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, visit us at [www.cgaux.org](http://www.cgaux.org) or [www.axupa.org](http://www.axupa.org)