



Press Release

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INSTEAD OF ROSES, GIVEN A DOZEN SAFETY TIPS/GIFTS THAT MAY SAVE A LIFE

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary offers Twelve Great Valentine's Day Gift Ideas for Boaters

With "love in the air" and spring and boating season just around the corner, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary would like to offer some special Valentine's Day gift ideas for boaters to help them stay safe all year long, and will surely last longer than roses.

One of the best gift ideas for boaters is to sign them up for a boating safety course. Knowledge is power, and it has been statistically shown that boaters who have taken a safety class are far less likely to be involved in a boating mishap or fatality. Course topics include basic boat handling, required and recommended safety equipment, navigational rules and dealing with boating emergencies. To learn more, call 1-877-875-6296, visit the USCGAUX Boating Safety Class page at: http://nws.cgaux.org/visitors/pe_visitor/class_finder/index.html

One of the most valuable gifts for boaters doesn't cost anything but time, such as scheduling a free vessel safety check(VSC) with the local Coast Guard Auxiliary. An Auxiliarist will ensure examine your vessel to compliance with federal, state and local safety requirements before getting underway. For more information or to schedule a VSC, visit: <http://safetyseal.net/> and click on "I WANT A VSC."

Ten other great gift ideas to help keep boaters safe include:

- Sleek, light-weight, and comfortable inflatable life jackets (personal flotation devices - PFDs)
- A carbon monoxide detector
- Emergency signaling kits -- flares, signal mirror, whistle, etc.
- Kill switch leash -- kills the engine if the boater falls overboard
- Up-to-date navigational charts and/or a handheld GPS unit
- Navigation tools and calculators
- Hand-held VHF marine radio with extra batteries
- Personal emergency position indicating radio beacons (PEPIRBs)
- Tool kit and spare parts for boats

- Personal protective Equipment (PPE), such as a First Aid kit, sun screen, sunglasses, food and water.

The price range for these items runs from under \$10, up to several hundred dollars, but giving the gift of safety to a friend or loved one is priceless.

The Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary recommend these gifts in the effort to save lives and reduce mishaps on America's waterways.

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The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary is composed of uniformed, non-military volunteer's 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 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 or www.axupa.org .