



Flotilla 19 NEWS

May, 2011



Flotilla Commander's Report By Gary Cordrey, FC

May 7 is the official start of boating season. We will be staffing a number of Boating Safety booths and offering free vessel exams to the boating community. This will provide us with the chance to chat with boaters about water and boating safety. Please join us at one or more of these great summer events.

Recommended Reading: *Seaworthy: Essential Lessons from Boat US's 20-Year Case Files Of Things Gone Wrong* by Robert A. Adriance, Jr. (Available from amazon.com for \$24.95) Topics discussed include avoiding collisions, preventing fires and winterizing your boat. The author relates many situations, some with accompanying photographs. This would be a great book to have in your boating reference library.

Rendezvous: Come by boat or by car for a fun weekend in beautiful La Conner. The city has many attractions including restaurants and unique shops. The hosts also have interactive events planned for your enjoyment. Please inform Kathryn Wellington (220-3872) or me (366-0362) if you will be attending or would like further information.
When: June 24 - 26, 2011.
Where: La Conner.

Next Flotilla 19 Meeting: Wednesday May 4th, 7 pm, Blaine Marina Conference Room, 235 Marine Dr., Blaine, WA. See you there!

Previous editions of this newsletter can be found at: www.tinyurl.com/f19news

Public Education Update By Terry Sanchez, FSO-PE

Our public education courses for the spring have concluded. As advertised, we had three ABS classes, and three seminar classes: Suddenly in Command (SIC), How to Read a Nautical Chart, and VHF for Mariners. The SIC and the VHF classes were well attended, and we should give credit to Kathryn Wellington (SIC), and Chris Doure (VHF) for their excellent presentations.

I taught an informational seminar on RADAR early in the year at West Marine, and a student asked me to explain how broadband RADAR worked. I was embarrassed to admit that I did not know anything about it. He went on to say that it was low power FM/CW, which I doubted, but knew better than to challenge him on something I did not know. Turns out he was right on. So, I thought perhaps some of

you might want to know about this new technology. It appears that it's been around for about three years. As you know conventional RADAR is pulsed. The breakthrough in technology for pulsed RADAR came from the British just before WWII, as they were experimenting with resonant cavities that substantially increased power and facilitated duplexing, which allows the use of one antenna for transmit and receive. Conventional wisdom then, says that a continuous wave (CW) and the subsequent low power would clearly not work. Not true! Broadband RADAR does indeed use a CW signal as a carrier, modulates the frequency (FM), which when reflected off the target, shifts the signal depending on range, target size, etc. About the only assumption I had correct is that it does have two antennas...one for transmit and one for receive. If you were to look into the dome it looks like two arrays, one on top of another, which makes sense since the radome is twice as tall as the conventional one. The manufacturer boasts two advantages to broadband; first, the low power FM signal has a distinct advantage recognizing close-in targets. Pulsed radar, due to the high power and pulsing, masks close-in targets which are within its "main bang",

and second, without a magnetron (resonant cavity) the power consumption is very low. Since modern RADARs have FTC, automatic gain control, etc., I have never had a problem distinguishing close-in targets. However, for sailboat mariners the low power consumption is a clear advantage. With the advent of this new broadband RADAR one can only think about how simple the solution was. It prompts us all to ask, "Why didn't I think of this?" [Editor's note: A third advantage to BBR is that its output power is so low (cell-phone-like), you can literally stand in front of the antenna while it's operating with no ill effects. That means that you have many more options about where the antenna can be placed. This is definitely not the case with traditional high-power pulsed RADAR.]

Flotilla Calendar Updates

By Chris Doutre, FSO-PB

We have received a few updates to our flotilla events calendar. If you are interested in participating in any of these events, please get in touch with the contact named in the chart below. If there is no contact listed yet, and you want to get involved, please contact FC Gary Cordrey.

Event Calendar For 2011	Date	Contact
Semiahmoo Resort Opening Day	May 7	Gary Cordrey
Blaine Harbor Opening Day	May 7	Art Cummings, Kathryn Wellington
Sandy Point Marina Opening Day	May 14	Lyle Schrag
Ski to Sea (100 years old)	May 28	Drew West, Michael DeAnnuntis
Point Roberts Marina Safety Day	June 11	Lou Herrick
Flotilla Rendezvous La Conner	June 24 – 26	Gary Cordrey, Kathryn Wellington
Blaine Old Fashioned 4th of July	July 4	Richard Coons, Pat Guimond
32nd Annual Birch Bay Discovery Days	July 16 – 17	
BP Refinery Safety Days	July	Drew West
Blaine Sail-A-Bration	July	Hoyt Hatfield
Drayton Harbor Days	August 6 – 7	Michael DeAnnuntis, Pat Guimond
Sandy Point Bullhead Derby	August 20	Lyle Schrag
Northwest Washington Fair	August 15 – 20	Michael DeAnnuntis, Sheri McIntosh
Semiahmoo International Regatta	September 10	

NATIONAL BOATING SAFETY ADVISORY COUNCIL
April 1-2, 2011 Arlington, Virginia

Resolution Number 2011-87-01

APPROPRIATE REGULATIONS FOR LIFE JACKET WEAR BY RECREATIONAL BOATERS

WHEREAS, recreational boating is a premier outdoor pas-time for over 70 million Americans and untold numbers of visitors to our nation's waters each year; AND

WHEREAS, in spite of the fact that boating is highly regarded as a safe and enjoyable recreational activity, this Council recognizes the need to be mindful that the reduction in annual fatalities associated with recreational boating is of great importance; AND

WHEREAS, thorough analysis of available boating accident data has been performed and used as a basis for this recom-mendation; AND

WHEREAS, given the fact that, on average, approximately 500 people die in recreational boating accidents each year in the United States as a result of non-swimming-related drowning and very few of them were wearing a life jacket, consequently the National Boating Safety Advisory Council agrees that mandatory life jacket wear is appropriate for certain segments of the boating community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Boating Safety Advisory Council, meeting in regular session in Arlington, Virginia, on April 2, 2011, recommends that the U. S. Coast Guard:

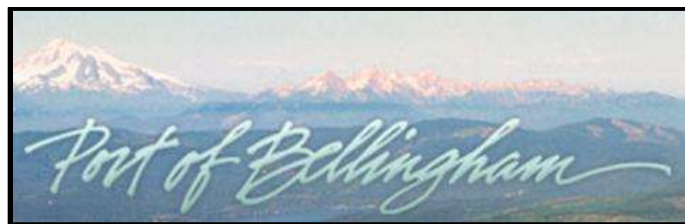
1. Initiate efforts which target a future regulatory project to pursue requirements for life jacket wear for recreational boaters while underway and riding in or upon (with con-sideration given to appropriate exemptions):
 - a. personal watercraft regardless of length
 - b. human-powered vessels (such as canoes, kayaks, row-boats, etc.) regardless of length
 - c. any vessel less than 18-feet in length
 - d. for any person towed while engaged in watersports
2. Work with its partners to design a strategy to engage the boating public through in-person and electronic dialogue on this topic through pre-rulemaking consultation aimed at informing the public about the potential benefits of such a regulation, gauging public opinion about life jacket wear based on boating type and activity, and making deci-sions on this topic based on a thorough understanding of both public sentiment and potential benefits.
3. Make initiatives aimed at streamlining the life jacket test-ing and approval processes a high priority in order to re-duce the overall cost of highly comfortable life jackets, support innovation and creativity in life jacket design and technology, and allow improved life jacket models to reach the consumer quicker and easier.
4. Give proper consideration to the acceptance (US Coast Guard approval for wear requirements and carriage re-quirements) of alternative life jackets and other buoyant devices (i.e., Level 50 devices) by completing and accept-ing a harmonized North American standard, and report back to this Council on the potential benefits and draw-backs of allowing these devices to be worn as a means of compliance with a proposed life jacket wear regulation.

James P. Muldoon, Chairman
National Boating Safety Advisory Council

Help Wanted, Materials Officer: To be responsible for ordering and managing all supplies and equipment acquired by the flotilla. For more information, or to apply for the job, contact Gary Cordrey, FC, or Michael DeAnnuntis, VFC, FSO-MA.

All flotilla members are welcome to contribute to the newsletter. Email your articles to Chris Doutre, FSO-PB. Plus, if you have burning questions, or newsletter article ideas, please send them to me and I will find someone to write an article on your topic. Try it; you'll like it!

We thank Blaine West Marine and Blaine Marina for their support of our local Coast Guard Auxiliary Public Education programs.



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