



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

30 August 2003



*American
Canoe
Association*



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
Between
U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY
And
AMERICAN CANOE ASSOCIATION
In Support of the Coast Guard Recreational Boating Safety

1. BACKGROUND

The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary ("USCGAUX") is a civilian component of the United States Coast Guard ("USCG"). The USCGAUX is authorized by Congress and operates in support of the USCG's support of recreational boating ("RBS") and the preservation of the maritime environment. The USCGAUX has developed various RBS programs including the Vessel Safety Check (VSC) to provide recreational boaters an advisory review of their vessel and equipment and additional recommended equipment. In this capacity, the USCGAUX has the responsibility of identifying and empowering additional organizations to help and/or support the VSCP. The United States Power Squadrons® (USPS) and a number of States and organizations, have joined the USCGAUX to provide safety checks or as supporters of the VSCP around the country. These organizations have a demonstrated commitment to boating safety and outreach efforts, emphasis on education, law enforcement activities, and organizations that do not choose to conduct vessel safety checks. The successful execution of the Program within their jurisdiction and to support the Program. By doing so the State or organization serve the public interest program, which include boaters and their families, members of the USCGAUX, organizations, and vendors of boats and boating equipment.

Founded in 1880, the American Canoe Association (ACA) is the largest paddlesports organization, directly representing over 50,000 members across the country. ACA serves as a representative for the millions of people who enjoy canoeing, kayaking and rafting. As such, the ACA is constantly working to make the world a better and safer place to paddle. ACA is engaged in efforts to safeguard the nation's recreational waters and protect paddler access. ACA is a recognized leader in paddling instruction and safety education. Currently, ACA-certified canoe and kayak instructors in the U.S. teach approximately 100,000 students each year.

The following terms of agreement apply to the American Canoe Association's promotional support of the Vessel Safety Check Program and recreational boating programs.

2. AMERICAN CANOE ASSOCIATION / US COAST GUARD AU UNDERSTANDING

The ACA will work with designees of the USCGAUX to develop a promotional program in support of the Vessel Safety Check Program, Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary Recreational Boating Safety Programs, and paddlesports.

The ACA and the USCGAUX will cooperate in the development of boating safety programs and the training and promotion of the development of a paddlesports vessel safety check program.

The ACA supports the activities of the USCGAUX, USPS and other organizations and will, as resources and conditions permit, invite the USCGAUX to participate in the Vessel Safety Check Program in conjunction with paddlesport events and programs. The ACA and USCGAUX will utilize their internal resources to provide maximum exposure of the program to the greater paddlesport community.

The ACA will publicize the Vessel Safety Check and Recreational Boating Safety programs in its various magazines, brochures, newsletters, and other media, and provide opportunities to heighten the awareness of the boating public to the importance of Safety Checks and boater safety education and training.

As part of its participation and support, the ACA will recognize the importance of Vessel Safety Checks and boater education to the paddlesport community. The Vessel Safety Check and accompanying one-on-one instruction is an important way to save lives on the water.

USCGAUX has the responsibility to establish and periodically re-evaluate criteria for Vessel Safety Checks, the eligibility of various types of watercraft, and criteria for award of the Vessel Safety Check decal.

The USCGAUX and the ACA will conduct publicity campaigns that will emphasize the value of their RBS programs. This will include articles in local papers.

While conducting Vessel Safety Checks, Vessel Examiners will disseminate specific boating safety information in order for the paddler to comply with Federal requirements. The Vessel Examiners will also provide information on how to obtain hands-on paddlesport training including information on the boater education and instruction program. The benefit of the program will be to increase the safety awareness which impact the paddling community and ultimately to support a more educated and safety conscious boater population.

POINTS OF CONTACT:

For the ACA:

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MODIFICATIONS: Modifications to this Agreement may be made only in writing and must be signed by all the parties to this Agreement. All modifications to this agreement must be in writing.

OTHER PROVISIONS: Nothing within this agreement is intended to override or conflict with current law or regulations or the directives of the United States Department of Homeland Security, United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, or the American Canoe Association. If a term of this Agreement is inconsistent with applicable law, the term shall be invalid, but the remaining terms and conditions shall remain in full force and effect.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The terms of this Agreement will become effective on the date when signed by all parties.

REVIEW AND MODIFICATION: This Agreement will be reviewed

TERMINATION: The terms of this agreement, and any terms a
consent of all parties, will remain in effect until terminated upon w
the other parties hereto.

FOR THE AMERICAN CANOE ASSOCIATION

APPROVED

APPROVED

Charlie Wilson, ACA President

Pamela Dillon, Executive Director

FOR THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY:

APPROVED

COMO E. W. Edgerton, National Commodore