

# UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

The civilian component of the U.S. Coast Guard

(Authorized by Congress in 1939)

## U. S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY PRESS RELEASE

### U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY PUBLIC EDUCATION BOATING SAFELY CLASSES AND FREE VESSEL SAFETY CHECKS

**The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary in Slidell, Louisiana** will be conducting a boating education course on Saturday, **July 24, 2010** from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The “About Boating Safely” (ABS) course will cover choosing the right vessel, trailering, navigation rules, boat and personal water craft handling, legal requirements, boating emergencies, enjoying water sports, lines (ropes), and tying many types of knots. By passing this course, you may qualify for boat insurance discounts with many cooperating insurance providers. Please contact your insurance agent to see what they offer.

**NOTICE:** New Louisiana boating laws. As of July 1, 2010, anyone born after January 1, 1984 wishing to operate an outboard motor in excess of 10 horsepower must have successfully completed a boating education course approved by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA). It is illegal for anyone under the age of 16 to operate a personal watercraft (PWC). Regardless of age, if you pass an ABS class given by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, you will be presented with a certificate of completion. The Department of Wildlife and Fisheries will then mail a vessel operator certificate to your home. Those born after January 1, 1984 must possess this certificate when operating a powered vessel or are monitoring the operation by someone younger than 18. All persons on board a motorboat which is being propelled by a hand tiller outboard motor shall be required to wear a USCG approved personal flotation device while the motorboat is underway. No person shall operate a motorboat with a hand tiller outboard motor in excess of 10 hp designed to have or having an engine cut-off switch, while the engine is running and the motorboat is underway. The engine cut-off switch shall be fully functional and in operable condition. The engine cut-off switch link shall be attached to the operator, the operator’s clothing or the operator’s personal flotation device.

**COURSE INFORMATION:** The course will occur at First United Methodist Church located at 433 Erlanger Street in Slidell, La. (near Sgt Alfred and 3<sup>rd</sup> Streets). The cost of the ABS textbook and final examination certificate is \$30.00 per person. You can register and get the textbook by calling Gus Maggiore (Public Education Officer) at 985-781-1220 or 985-290-3565, Ronald Martin (Vice-Commander) at 985-641-9337, or Walter Ybos (Commander) at 985-502-4170. You can also register and pick up the ABS textbook at GUS’ TACKLE AND NETS, located at 726 Old Spanish Trail in Slidell, La. You must register no later than the Friday before the class.

**FREE VESSEL SAFETY CHECKS:** You can have your vessel checked by a qualified member of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary by contacting Jerry Ashker at 985-788-5770. There is never a consequence for failing a vessel safety check and the results of the safety checks are not reported to any enforcement agency. Passing vessel owners will be awarded a certificate and decal. Failing vessel owners will be briefed on pertinent safety issues and will be advised what needs to be done to obtain a passing inspection.

Submitted by: Fred Fath FSO-PA Phone 985-674-5330, Cell 504-908-5915 or E-Mail [Ffath661@yahoo.com](mailto:Ffath661@yahoo.com)

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Dedicated to promoting recreational boating safety