



Department of Information and Communication Services

September 2004

BITS & BYTES

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2004 Best of Web Awards Announced -- Every Auxiliary District now has a very significant online presence, with their Unit websites communicating to both our members and the boating public 24/7. These websites now total nearly 700, and receive well over 1 million "hits" per year. The best examples of our websites are honored annually with the Best Of Web competition and awards. This year's contest was especially spirited with the BOW Awards presented at NACON in Costa Mesa, CA!

The webmasters of these sites have spent countless hours to create engaging, and effective websites that deliver the Auxiliary message in a highly professional manner.

Runners-up websites were [Flotilla 5-2 District 7](#) , [Division 7 District 13](#) and [District 11 NR](#) ! They received a certificate and 1 Star logo <http://www.cgaux.org/cgauxweb/gifs/1starlogo-4a.jpg> for their sites.

Winning websites were [Flotilla 1-4 District 11S](#) , [DIV 3 of District 9ER](#) , and [District 7](#) ! They also received certificate, a distinctive Trophy <http://www.cgaux.org/cgauxweb/gifs/Trophies2004.jpg> and 5 Star Logo <http://www.cgaux.org/cgauxweb/gifs/5starlogo-4a.jpg>

All Auxiliary sites are encouraged to enter the Best Of Web 2005 competition. Stay tuned to AIRS: <http://216.167.73.185/~airs/> for details.

Jeff Mahl
DC-ld@cgaux.org

If you have XP, what Service Pack 2 will do for you? – Microsoft recently released a Service Pack update for XP designed to improve security and other features. There is a change in Network protection, with the Microsoft firewall (resident in XP) turned on by default. Your Internet Explorer browser will now include a built in pop-up blocker to prevent unsolicited downloading of Spyware. eMail is safer by isolating dangerous attachments, and memory protections are also instituted preventing attacks that result in buffer overruns. Users will now be prompted more efficiently if there are pending security updates waiting with a "security center" to monitor the status of essential safety functions.

Dial-up users will find it a very long load, and you may want to check into CD availability. You will want to consider SP-2 carefully, especially if you have not kept your Windows XP up to date. You may be vulnerable without it...

Jeff Mahl
Dc-ld@cgaux.org

AUX-04 "C" School set for ISC - Alameda, CA! -- The last 2004 session was held in Alameda, CA 26-30 AUG. Details (including the graduating class picture) about AUX-04 can be found on a special Student Support Website located at: <http://www.uscgaux.org/~aux04> We will be having 2 sessions (one east one west) in 2005, so watch future Bits & Bytes for details **and sign up early** when advised to participate in this great "C" school opportunity!

In the future, you will also see details on how to take this course "online" for those members that cannot attend the resident "C" school sessions.

Jeff Mahl
DC-ld@cgaux.org

Great new PowerPoint for the eDirectory! – As part of her AUX-04 "C" school project at the Coast Guard Academy, Vicki Boncic from District 8CR created a PowerPoint on the use of the new National eDirectory: <https://www.auxedirectory.org/index.php>

This informative presentation takes you step by step through all of the great features this online resource has to offer! Click: <http://www.auxservices.org/support/HowTo-20eDirectory.pps> for PowerPoint Show or <http://www.auxservices.org/support/HowTo-20eDirectory.pdf> for Adobe .pdf

Either format would make an excellent Flotilla training session, projected with an LCD projector, or as printed handout.

Check out all the other great "HowTo" presentations at:
<http://www.auxservices.org/support/B&B.htm>

Jeff Mahl
DC-ld@cgaux.org

ShopAuxiliary.com is here! -- After a successful test of eCommerce, the Auxiliary Board has approved the launch of ShopAuxiliary.com This will provide a "virtual mall" for our members to access a variety of respected affiliates including Chelsea, Amazon, and SoftChoice. Soon there will be many others!



You will notice new "Shop Auxiliary" blue buttons appearing on all Auxiliary websites. We ask webmasters who currently use the old "Auxiliary eCommerce" blue buttons to replace them with the new "Shop Auxiliary" button. Every Auxiliary website (District, Division, and Flotilla) is asked to include the button on their site. Complete details for our webmasters are located at shopauxiliary.com/linktous.htm.

Most important is that purchases made using this button financially benefit the Auxiliary, and help support our many programs!

Jeff Mahl
DC-ld@cgaux.org

Last Call on Adobe Acrobat Approval! -- Approval allows you to use eSignatures, do spell check, and most importantly **SAVE** completed online forms. For 98% of our members, this is the Adobe product you need. Now you can get this for \$6.52. The catch? **Adobe will stop offering Approval 30 SEP 2004**, which means this is your last chance to take advantage of this great offer, on a great product.

Click for additional details: <http://www.uscgaux.org/~auxcen/auxcen/adobespecial.html>



Jeff Mahl
DC-ld@cgaux.org

Cyber Spot of the Month

As time goes on, we all might notice the computer screen gets a bit harder to read with each passing year. A new application called Web Eyes helps make those pages easier to read. The product is explained in detail as a helpful feature on the Social Security Administration webpage: <http://www.ssa.gov/textsizeinst.htm> It may be cheaper than buying a new monitor ☺

Did you know?

You can synchronize your PC clock with the government time standard. With XP accurate time keeping is easy. Log on as administrator > right click time on desktop lower right > click adjust date/time > select Internet Time > select nist.gov > click update

Reminder:

This mail system is for use only for the distribution of Bits & Bytes, and other I-CS Department information. It is not to be used for any other purpose. Thanks for your cooperation.

Viewing problems?

Check the Bits & Bytes Archive for a complete list of *all* issues at:
<http://www.cgaux.org/cgauxweb/infoserv/BandB.htm>

Bits & Bytes

A resource of the Department of Information and Communication Services
Charlotte Kelly, Editor, BC-ISBN@cgaux.org