



Homeland
Security



October 06

BITS & BYTES

Issue 2006-10

Dear IS & CS Officers;

This will be my last article as your Department Chief. I am very happy to say that Brett Grooms has been named as your new DC-I, and he will have the "deck and the con" on 1 November 2006. The IT Department is in great shape, with vastly improved infrastructure, hardware and applications. Our systems, including the new online conferencing system Smile Tiger, cPanel, National eDirectory, "smart" forms and AUXPlus databases are running like champs. With Brett's leadership and your help, the sky is literally the limit!

All these advances were made possible by some of the greatest staff officers in the Auxiliary. You can be assured we have only started the voyage to a truly remarkable **eAuxiliary**. Your continued input, hard work, and enthusiasm will get us where we need to go.

A great many of you have expressed interest in what's ahead for me. The website www.TheGreatAutoRace.com has a pre-production [Video Film Trailer](#) you might be interested in (broadband recommended), as well as a new [Voice of America Broadcast](#) Feel free to keep in touch :-)

Thank you for your faithful support, innovative ideas, and friendship over the many years....

Semper Paratus,

— [Jeff](#)

Simplified Reporting

One of the projects I hoped to see delivered during my term as National Commodore is the Auxiliary Activity Report (AuxAR) program. This electronic reporting process will allow members to report hours into AUXDATA simply, quickly and online. I mistakenly thought implementation of this new process would be a slam-dunk. Unfortunately, I underestimated the complexity of the connection to the AUXDATA system and so we are still waiting for this ball, now circling the rim, to fall through the hoop. Here's [some background and the current status of this important project](#).

— Gene Seibert NACO

AuxplusPE – The PE Program of 2006

Get on board the AuxplusPE train with other Public Education officers across the nation. Are you tired of keeping and losing public Education records? Changing Public Education officers, and the records go with them? Then students come back a couple or more years to get another certificate at which you can not find any records? Problem solved, and all you need is to be a member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary.



A new Public Education management program has been built to meet the needs of our public education records management requirements. This special program was built to enable the public education officer to do the following:

- Record the names / address and contact information of the students and to include their e-mail addresses. With a simple "click" of the mouse you can send that student an e-mail.
- Keep individual records for each class with costs, and a financial report, is now available for your finance officer. This will tell you the dollars for each class. Individual cost records can manually be adjusted.
- Class list - pre-sorted for the ease of checking names for attendance records – also in the program.
- Class instructor list - for each chapter can be filled out and issued to each student with ease.

Do you want to produce a Welcome letter to each student? Not a problem with this program, and it will be individualized to each student. Welcome the student with information and communications about the class.

Employers sometimes want a letter of attendance, if it is a corporate sponsored program – this is also individualized and can printed out for each student to present as proof of attendance. All of these come from the base enrollment of the student registration. They offer simple and fast enrollment for class administrators.

Are you tired of chasing your Flotilla Commander for signatures on the individual class cards and class certificates? No longer is a problem, now you can scan the Flotilla Commander signature and it will be automatically applied to both the card and certificate with no problem. We can use Avery* card stock for printing out the individual cards with no problem and a lot of ease. Scanned names can be changed in a minute to a new class administrator or flotilla commander. Not a problem – all you need is their signature to scan.

National has developed a beautiful new common certificate for the Public Education programs. You can print that out for your students, populated with the dates and signatures automatically. Don't be dismayed that you have boxes of old certificates – you can still print them out with ease and with a "click" of the mouse to "old" in the program. It will populate the areas that you had to hand write out in the past with limited expense on ink usage.

Graphics are wonderful through the whole program. Help is available with the program and National has put out also on the web both a Microsoft Power Point presentation and auto video – "How to Use AuxplusPE" part # 1. This will get you started. Reach out to the National website and go to: <http://www.cgauxed.org/elib/> under National programs and get instructions on how to

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary		National Education Department		Homeland Security	
Approved Training Aids from the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Department of Education					
Multi-Lesson Courses					
BS&S	Boating Skills and Seamanship	13 Lessons			
LGS	Let's Go Sailing	4 Lessons			
BIACN	Coastal Navigation (Basic & Advanced)	6 / 12 Lessons			
Seminar Courses					
ABC	America's Boating Course	7 Lessons			
GPSFM	GPS For Mariners	One Lesson			
HRNC	How to Read a Nautical Chart	One Lesson			
SIC	Suddenly In Command	One Lesson			
PWC	Personal Watercraft Safety Course	One Lesson			
Waypoints	Boating Safety grades 4-6	One Lesson			
Boating Fun	Boating Safety grades K-3	One Lesson			
Youth IG	Waypoints/Boating Fun Instructor Guide	Both courses in one guide 9 pages (PDF)			
Instructor Training, Workshops, and Tools					
WS06	Instructor Workshop 2006	For all Instructors			
Errata	Applied changes and fixes	From both field and staff		By Course	
Templates	Blank screens in "National" formats	3 PPT background formats			
Utilities	Unzip/Readers/Viewers/Players	Links to external sites			
National Programs					
AuxPlusPE	AuxPlusPE	User instructions			
OWT	On Water Training Materials	Manuals, Forms, FAQs			
State Law Lists and Status	State Boating Law Database & Program	State Boating Law Administrators and Laws			
WWW	Website/Watch	Website/Watch Program			

download the best Auxiliary management program available.

I have been testing and using this program prior and currently to national launch processing over 315 students with presentation of certificates after passing the class exam. A laptop computer and a printer at the registration and final class were my only tools. Some classes, I was able to print the certificates and cards ahead of the conclusion with ease and no problems. Saving your data is not a problem and it can be passed up the chain to your division / district public education officer. I encourage you to be curious and down load the program. Help yourself and your Public Education officers keep their records in order-starting today! If you have any questions or want more information, please feel free to contact me. It has been a pleasure working this success story and having the support of the Coast Guard Auxiliary National Public Education Staff. Check out what else is "new" on the public education website. There are presentations and tools that you can use to make the classes interesting and informative.

— [David L. Ten Broeck](#) , DSO-Public Education, First Southern District

A technique to share AUXINFO bookmarks.

The data base AUXINFO contains information of interest to many. However, setting up an AUXINFO bookmark for "one click" repeated access to the data takes some skill, a reasonably fast internet access, and a little time for the initial setup. The custom created bookmark URL is very long and wraps across multiple lines of text making sharing difficult. This often results in trading or sharing of bookmarks being discouraged because users generally don't do it correctly.

Consider the following as a technique for sharing bookmarks. Place the custom created AUXINFO bookmark URL inside a html file as shown in the example below. The technique of putting a very long URL inside a html file eliminates the issue of URL end of line clipping when the bookmarked file is just emailed to others. In addition, the bookmark creator can easily include description and end user optional steps. The resultant html file is small, may contain user instructions, and is easily transmitted by most email systems. It can even be placed on a web server and run remotely from a browser.

My belief is that when a power user creates useful html files with embedded AUXINFO bookmarks using this technique it has the potential to open AUXINFO data up to many more people. As the saying goes, "Try it, you'll like it!".

```
<html>
<body>
  <p> Describe here the purpose of this html file.</p>
  <p> Click <a href="BookMark long URL from AUXINFO goes here">ABookMarkName</a>
to access AUXINFO via a custom bookmark.</p>
  <p>Add additional information here such as end user optional steps.</p>
</body>
</html>
```

— [Andrew L Gibson \(Andy\)](#) , FSO-MS Flotilla 87, Div 8, Dist 5SR

Department of Vessel Examinations and RBS Visitation Program Policy Clarification

1- Members qualifying as VEs and/or PVs need to pass an exam and supervised practicals. These do not have to be done in any order. However, we strongly recommend that trainees pass the qualification exam before the practical is attempted.

2- In the initial year for qualification, members do not have to meet the annual currency maintenance requirements for that program. However, we encourage newly qualified members to do as many as practical for the time of year that they receive their qualification..

— [Peter Urgola DC-V](#)

Some House Cleaning

The 'Future Web' website has been phased out, as most of the links and resources are now part of the IT Department website: <http://home.auxidept.org/> Primary links, including the AUXImage Library have been included in the IT Department left panel under the Resources Heading.