***Notes for Introduction to Basic Boating Safety Seminar***

***The Introduction to Basic Boating Safety Seminar*** was developed as a result of a request from Ski boat manufacturers and a local boat dealer to deliver a one-hour presentation to their customers with little to no background or training in Boating Safety. It is important to note that it is ***NOT*** a certificate course, nor was it designed to be one. There is a disclaimer slide in the presentation telling what it is and what it is not.

To meet the target objectives, we first identified the most critical components of boating safety a new boater needs to know immediately. As the seminar was built, graphics and illustrations came from both Auxiliary Public Education PowerPoint presentations and from US Power Squadron PowerPoint presentations. All written content was authored by USCGAUX. An initial review of the content of the beta test presentation was performed by the USPS and CGAUX Instructors and the Marketing Manager of the boat dealer who requested the presentation. The initial beta test presentation was delivered as a collaborative joint team instruction with a USPS Instructor and CGAUX Instructor. Students actively participated and interacted with the Instructors. Follow up feedback from students and from the boat dealer was highly positive.

This presentation is designed to be highly customizable for local considerations and Flotillas are encouraged to modify as appropriate. Examples would be to add local navigation considerations, local ordinances, local weather cautions, or any other local items that new boaters will need to know. Of particular importance is to modify the resource document to fit local needs with appropriate websites, contact information, or other local resources new boaters would find helpful.

While the primary goal of the presentation was to give a snapshot and a taste of the most critical safety information, the secondary goal was to whet their appetite for something more thorough which could include a certificate PE course, membership in the Auxiliary, and promotion of the VSC program. It should be noted that this seminar was never intended to be more than a “taste” of what we have to offer. It is a tool to be used to recruit students for PE classes, VSCs, and potentially membership.

This presentation could be used at boat clubs, boat dealers, boat shows, civic groups, etc. While it was designed for an hour, audience participation could cause it to go longer and it could be tailored for longer time slots if additional content such as hands-on knot tying, life jacket drills, etc. was included. Depending on the number of teaching aids available, students could try on the various life jackets, role play and learn the steps to MOB, or demonstrate anchoring techniques. There are many other possibilities to utilize the instructor’s imagination so the only limits are time available for the presentation.

It is our desire that Flotillas experiment with this seminar and share their experience. Please send feedback to [pe.feedback@cgauxnet.us](mailto:pe.feedback@cgauxnet.us).