



WATER SAFETY JOURNAL

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Newsletter of the National Water Safety Congress

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2002 Boating & Water Safety Summit Deemed Success

More than 450 men and women from U.S. federal, state and local organizations attended the Sixth Annual International Boating and Water Safety Summit held in beautiful Daytona Beach, Fla., April 27-May 1, 2002.

A cooperative effort between the National Water Safety Congress (NWSC) and the National Safe Boating Council (NSBC), the Summit provided an international forum for the exchange of water and boating safety information.

General sessions presented topics of interest to all attendees. In addition, the small breakout sessions allowed for specialized training. Individuals with specific concerns could design their own curriculum from the five tracks available: Boating Education Outreach & Awareness, Boating Education Safety, Risk Management, Communications, Law Enforcement/Boating Under the Influence.

The National Safe Boating Council and the National Water Safety Congress annually host this event with assistance from the Aquatic Resources (Wallop-Breaux) Trust Fund administered by the U.S. Coast Guard.

Other water safety organizations that routinely participate in the Summit are the National Association of Boating Law Administrators, the National Recreation and Parks Association, the U.S.



Attendees received valuable information on education, water-based recreational sports, Homeland Security, and the latest in aquatic equipment and boating and water safety.

Daytona Beach offered a stunning location in which participants could learn, network and "recharge."

Summit participants enjoyed listening to engaging speakers and taking advantage of excellent networking opportunities with other safety professionals. Those involved with water safety education, enforcement or management found the Summit to be a great way to discover programs that work in other states. They also had an opportunity to explore new products and services in the arena of boating and water safety by visiting the exhibitors' area.

Aside from vendor displays and award-winning presentations, the Summit presented a broad spectrum of training for boating and water safety personnel and law enforcement agencies.



Coast Guard Auxiliary, the United States Power Squadrons, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Federal Energy Regulation Commission, the Tennessee Valley Authority and the National Transportation Safety Board.

The next Summit will be held April 13-16, 2003, at the Alexis Park Resort in Las Vegas.

President's Column

By Ronald J. Riberich

Greetings and welcome to the new *Water Safety Journal*. It has been over a year since we last communicated through the *Journal*, and I apologize for the interruption.

In the past year the Congress, like other organizations, has gone through a reorganization effort dictated by the undertaking of a five-year strategic plan. Our print version of the *Journal* was intensely discussed during our planning process and our Board of Directors had to postpone its publication.

With our planning process complete and our new Board and committee structures firmly in place, the *Journal's* direction has been solved and will now come to you three times per year in an electronic format. The *Journal* is in a PDF file to allow easy printing for further distribution within your organization. We hope you like the new look along with the easier distribution style.

I am also happy to report we have a new partner for the *Journal*. The Congress is pleased to be working with the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) to produce the *Journal*. This is a result of our Memorandum of Agreement with NASBLA to cooperate and partner on projects of benefit to both organizations.

In my President's Letter on the National Water Safety Congress website, I discuss several of the significant changes that took place in the Congress resulting from the strategic planning process, along with the introduction of the Board's new officers, regional vice presidents, and their areas of jurisdiction. Please refer to the Congress website located at www.watersafetycongress.org, for further clarification of these points.

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2002 Regional Awards Winners

During the Sixth Annual International Boating and Water Safety Summit, the National Water Safety Congress presented a number of awards to individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to water safety issues and programs. Following are the eight regional award winners.

Region 1

Greenville Power Squadron, Easley, S.C.

The Greenville Power Squadron has been active in promoting safe boating throughout many areas of South Carolina as well as parts of Georgia and North Carolina. Based out of Greenville, S.C., this unit has 240 members and promotes boater education and water safety to many neighboring communities, especially surrounding Hartwell Lake, which lies in Georgia and South Carolina about 50 miles from Greenville. The Greenville Power Squadron has become a leader in promoting boater safety throughout this region of the southeast. Boating in this area is extremely popular due to the close proximity of Hartwell Lake and many other smaller lakes in South Carolina, North Carolina and Georgia.

Region 2

George Stewart, Executive Director of National Association of State Boating Law Administrators

George Stewart has spent many years fighting for federal funding for boating safety. His contributions in keeping safety in the limelight in the halls of Congress are a testimony to his resolve to have resources available to save lives in the states in his region and the nation. He spent 30 years in the Navy, 14 years as boating law administrator for Delaware, and the past 15 years serving the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators, currently as executive director.

Region 3

Nashville District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Water Safety Task Force

This multi-agency taskforce has had a significant impact in promoting water safety throughout Kentucky, Tennessee and parts of five other states. In the four years since its beginning, the task force has been a driving force in the reduction of public accidents and fatalities at lakes,

locks and dams. Focusing on education, publicity and partnerships has proved to be effective in channeling water safety efforts. The Task Force includes the Corps of Engineers and partners from the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency and the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Region 4

Thunder on Water Safe Boating Festival

Sponsored by the Grenada County (Mississippi) Chamber of Commerce, the Thunder on Water Safe Boating Festival held on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Grenada Lake attracted nearly 148,000 visitors from a multi-state area in 2001. Festival committee members donated 6,600 volunteer hours in organizing and staging the event. The festival featured activities including personal watercraft races, a children's fishing rodeo, music concerts, a car show, and more. It also provided an excellent

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Coast Guard's Malatak Wins NWSC National Award

John Malatak, chief of the U.S. Coast Guard's Program Development & Implementation Division, received the National Water Safety Congress National Award for his longtime devotion to boating safety and water safety.

With a staff appointment as director of safety and disaster services for the American Red Cross in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Malatak began his public service career in 1970. He rose to the position of National Safety Representative for the middle Tennessee area then assumed that same position for the European Area Headquarters in Stuttgart, West Germany.

During his Red Cross career, Malatak served as special delegate to the International Red Cross Society, taking on special assignments to Africa, Greece, Crete, Turkey, France, Holland, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Portugal and the Azores.

Malatak has served in numerous positions at both the regional and national headquarters level with the American Red Cross. His final position with the Red Cross was as Assistant National Director/Senior Manager, Health and Safety.

Following his employment with the Red Cross, Malatak assumed the position of chief of Program Development & Implementation for the U.S. Coast Guard. In this position, he is responsible for ensuring total coordination and collaboration of all organizations and agencies concerned with recreational boating safety. This includes education, outreach and awareness programs, as well as all technical, educational, systematic and fiscal aspects of the Recreational Boating Safety Program.

Malatak has received numerous awards for his work in water and boating safety, including the TIFFANY AWARD, vice-presidential award for employee excellence; the 1982 National Certificate of Educational Excellence from the

Professional Association of Diving Instructors; the Council for National Cooperation in Aquatics' 1991 National Honor Award; the American Red Cross Lifesaving Award of Merit; 1997 and 1999 "Who's Who In Aquatics"; the National Safe Boating Council's 1998 Chairman Award; National Association of State Boating Law Administrators' 1999 Special Recognition Award; the 1999 Aquia Harbor Yacht Club Commodore's Trophy; 2000 "Silver Schooner" Award presented by the National Safe Boating Institute; the National Safe Boating Council's 2000 "Light Ship" Award; and 2001 "Chapman Safety Award," presented by *Motor Boating* magazine and the United States Power Squadrons.



His longtime devotion to boating safety and water safety earned John Malatak, chief of the U.S. Coast Guard's Program Development & Implementation Division, the National Water Safety Congress National Award.

Malatak is an active member of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and the United States Power Squadrons. He serves as the Coast Guard representative to the board of directors of the National Water Safety Congress, the National Safe Boating Council and the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators. He serves on numerous service, charitable and non-profit organizations.

An authorized Red Cross Instructor Trainer in Lifeguard Training, Water Safety, Swimming, Canoeing, Sailing, First Aid and CPR, Malatak also teaches various boating safety specialty courses including weather navigation, communications, and search and rescue, and he is a Boating Safety Master Instructor.

Malatak served on the Board of Directors of the National Water Safety Congress for many years and has been a good friend of the NWSC both in his tenure with the American Red Cross and the U.S. Coast Guard. He has continually supported the National Water Safety Congress. He successfully bridges the boating safety and water safety fields and continues to make significant contributions to both.

Executive Director Needed

The National Water Safety Congress is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to promoting safe recreational use of the nation's waterways.

NWSC is seeking candidates for the position of Executive Director to manage and direct the diverse programs and activities of a national organization. Nominal compensation of \$5,000/year and office set-up expenses of up to \$2,000 will be paid to the successful candidate. Additional compensation may be possible, based upon successful fund raising, new corporate sponsorships and additional grant funding.

Interested individuals may contact either Ron Riberich at 865.632.8872 (rjriberich@tva.gov) or Steve Fairbanks at 515.276.4656, ext. 226 (sbfairbanks@crosspaths.net) to receive a Request For Proposals package.

National Water Safety Congress Membership Meeting

President's
Column

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The National Water Safety Congress held its biannual membership meeting during the Sixth International Boating and Water Safety Summit in Daytona Beach, Fla.

In his "State of the Congress" address, outgoing President Steve Fairbanks reported that the state of the National Water Safety Congress was "improving." Fairbanks reported on the activities and accomplishments of the Congress during the past two years and introduced new President Ron Riberich.

The membership overwhelmingly passed a set of revised bylaws for the organization and positioned the Congress to respond to the challenges of the 21st century. The number of board members was reduced from 25 to 21, with 19

positions up for election in 2002. The regions of the NWSC were also consolidated from 8 to 6 and more closely mirror the NASBLA regions.

The Congress held elections for the 19 board of director positions. Six new members were elected to the board and will bring a diversity of backgrounds and experience to the National Water Safety Congress.

New board members are Richard Droesbeke, Utah State Parks and Recreation; Paul Kennedy, Missouri State Water Patrol; Gary Owen, Iowa Department of Natural Resources; Tom Plante, WE Energies; Cecilia Rolf, Spirit of America Foundation; and Mac Wimbish, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

If you have any questions or concerns in your area, please contact any Board officer or your regional vice president.

A goal generated from our strategic plan is for the Board to increase communication with its members. We want to know what is on your mind and how we can best serve our members, the Congress and the entire water safety arena.

As we move into the peak of the summer recreation season, it is important as ever that we do not become complacent and momentarily let our "guard" down in water safety awareness. Incidents can happen in a moment's notice. Please continue to be aware, pay close attention to your whereabouts and have a safe and enjoyable remaining summer of 2002.

2002 Regional Awards Winners

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opportunity for Corps of Engineers Park Rangers to promote water safety.

Region 5

Leslie McGoey

Ms. McGoey and her students researched, developed and produced a life jacket video. They also plan to create a series of water safety videos over the next five years.

Region 6

Gary Owen, Iowa Department of Natural Resources

A Lead Conservation Officer with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Gary Owen has gone beyond his normal duties in sharing his knowledge of water safety throughout Region 6. He has provided training in Minnesota and Iowa and with many other local, state and federal agencies as well as with the public. He was the catalyst behind Minnesota DNR's water survival course, providing the DNR officers with their first formal water safety instruction course in 1991. He has brought his

knowledge and talent to the International Boating and Water Safety seminars. He has traveled across Iowa with the Midwest Water Safety Council providing instruction on a variety of rescue topics. Owen has taught local fire departments, sheriff departments and state patrols. In addition, he has always been very humble of his military water survival career, where he was a member of the elite Navy SEAL team. Owen is a survivor and attempts to instill this survivor mentality to all he teaches.

Region 7

Personal Watercraft Conflict Resolution Website

This unique site was specifically designed as a web-based "tool kit" for resolving PWC conflicts and issues. It contains a tool box, case studies, rules & regulations, model acts, proposed actions and more items that have proven to be successful in resolving PWC conflicts. The site also provides links to numerous other helpful sites. Any changes or actions involving PWCs are immediately e-mailed to 400+ other active web links.

The United States Power Squadrons and Kawasaki Motors Corp. jointly developed the site located at www.USPS.org/national/PWC.

Region 8

City of Tucson, Arizona, Transportation/Planning and Stormwater Section

The Tucson Department of Transportation, Stormwater Section produced the *Desert Wash Safety Activity Book* for children. In the activity book, Zack Rabbit and Lenny Lizard learn about the dangers of playing near washes and how to be safe. Following its debut at the Earth Day Festival 2001, the activity book was mailed to more than 100 elementary schools throughout Tucson. The response was so overwhelming that the Stormwater Section has produced 60,000 copies in English and 5,000 in Spanish. A downloadable version of the *Desert Wash Safety Activity Book* is available in English or Spanish on the City of Tucson website at www.ci.tucson.az.us/hottopics/washsafety.html.