



WATER SAFETY JOURNAL

March 2006 • Vol. 22, No. 1

Newsletter of the National Water Safety Congress

Celebrate Ten Years with Us!

2006 INTERNATIONAL BOATING AND WATER SAFETY SUMMIT

April 30 – May 3, 2006 • Palm Harbor, Florida

The Tenth Annual International Boating and Water Safety Summit (IBWSS) is just around the corner and we encourage you to participate in this exciting event as an attendee, exhibitor or sponsor! Co-sponsored by the National Water Safety Congress and the National Safe Boating Council, the Summit is “the” aquatic program event for professionals and volunteers involved with boating and water safety. IBWSS offers an opportunity for experts to share information about current issues and trends in both classroom format and hands-on demonstrations.

Registration

Complete information and registration forms may be downloaded from our website and submitted by mail or fax: www.watersafetycongress.org or www.safeboatingcouncil.org.

The deadline for DISCOUNTED pre-registration is Friday, April 7, 2006.

Location

The Westin Innisbrook Golf Resort will serve as the site for the Summit. You are responsible for making your own room reservations by calling 1-727-942-2000 **no later than April 3, 2006 to get the discounted room rate.** Reference



the Boating & Water Safety Summit to receive the Summit rate.

The Westin Innisbrook is located approximately 40 minutes from Tampa International Airport which offers Super Shuttle service directly to the Resort for \$24 each way.

Events and Programs

Please note that this is a tentative schedule of events – times are subject to change!

Sunday, April 30

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Opening Reception & Exhibition

Monday, May 1

7:30 - 8:30 a.m.

Continental Breakfast

OPENING

8:30 - 9:05 a.m.

Color Guard - Presentation of Colors

Invocation

Greeting and Welcome

Recognition of Honored Guests

GENERAL SESSIONS

9:05 - 9:40 a.m.

Running a Large-Scale Waterborne Operation

10:00 - 10:35 a.m.

Boating Professionals Answer The Call

10:35 - 11:00 a.m.

TBA

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NWSC Award-Winning Programs Making a Difference

Lake Metroparks Adapted Boating Adventure



LAKE COUNTY, OH – Lake Metroparks, recognized by NWSC for their award-winning programs, strives to provide all Lake County residents – regardless of ability – the opportunity to participate in recreation programs. Lake Metroparks Adapted Boating program offers a unique opportunity for individuals with disabilities to learn boating safety, as well as have fun.

The program is offered at Fairport Harbor Lakefront Park on Lake Erie. The park system's fleet of 45 boats allows for a wide variety of boating opportunities for all ages and abilities. The boating program has grown considerably with the help of generous grants from the Ohio

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MERCURY
GOVERNMENT SALES

is the official sponsor of
the *Water Safety Journal*.

For more information about Summit activities and to download a registration form please visit www.watersafetycongress.org



THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Bobby Pharr

Well, my time at the helm of the National Water Safety Congress is close to an end. It has been a great honor to serve the last two years as President of the Congress. The ship did not run aground but stayed on course in accomplishing its mission. I want to thank all who supported me during this time. I am proud and thankful for the professional board and staff that the Congress has. Through leadership and pure hard work the Congress has not only stayed its course but has ventured into new waters.

There have been rough seas and high gales during this time. The events along the Gulf have taken its toll and its effects, both directly and indirectly, have involved many within the Congress. Some of the Congress board members were directly affected by the storm's wrath yet thankfully they were spared physical harm. Others had to leave their homes and normal job duties in the recovery efforts. Our hearts were saddened by the destruction but they were also warmed by the heroism and caring we saw in the recovery effort after the stormy seas and violent winds calmed.

There was also a long awaited homecoming within the Congress board. Board member Paul Kennedy spent almost two years serving our country in Iraq. His safe return last fall thrilled not only his family at home but also his professional family. We are proud of you, Paul, and give thanks to you and of all your fellow soldiers.

In 2004 when I was elected President, the Congress board confirmed Paul as Executive VP. It was just a short time afterwards, Paul was deployed to serve in Iraq. Paul missed the serving as our board's Vice President due to his deployment. During Paul's absence, the Congress went through several major changes. Under normal circumstances, the Executive Vice President would step into the Presidency. When Paul returned last fall, we discussed the situation and it was agreed that it would better serve Paul, his family, and the Congress to allow him the opportunity to serve another term as Executive Vice President. I know first hand that the knowledge and experience gained by serving as Executive VP before assuming the role of President of the Congress is very important because I myself missed this opportunity.

During its fall meeting, the board confirmed Arlyn Hendricks as the Executive Vice President for the rest of my term. Arlyn has been on the board for many years and has served in various leadership positions. His experience makes him very qualified to step up to the Presidency in April at the International Boating & Water Safety Summit in Palm Harbor, Florida.

The board also went through a strategic planning retreat where we reviewed our key stakeholders and their needs, discussed our strengths and weaknesses, and developed goals and objectives to pursue in the next three years. We have established the groundwork for developing a new strategic plan for the Congress, leading our organization in meeting our mission in an ever-changing environment. I look forward to reviewing the recommendations presented to the board by the Strategic Planning Committee.

As mentioned earlier, the Congress has gone through some exciting changes. We were awarded four grants in 2005: \$15,000 for Grassroots Grants for Local Safety programs; \$35,000 for Partnership Grants; \$63,000 for Youth Education (SOA-Spirit of America); and \$127,000 for Barge Lighting Test Grant. We appreciate the confidence that the U.S. Coast Guard has in the Congress and thank them for awarding these grants allowing us to continue to strengthen our partnerships with those organizations sharing our mission of saving lives on our nation's waters.

The barge lighting test grant will lay the ground work for improving safety on shared commercial and recreational boating waterways. The results of this grant will hopefully establish lighting requirements for barges that will not only improve safety for recreational boaters but for the workers on the barges themselves.

The SOA grant is going to allow us to open this program in Iowa and beyond in 2006. Last summer I paid an unexpected visit to Ohio's SOA graduation and all I can say is that I was taken aback by what I saw. To look into the faces of those kids as they demonstrated the boating and water safety skills they learned that summer was so exciting. My heart was warmed as I listened to the words they spoke at the graduation ceremony. Many of these kids had never been in a boat and some had pure fear of the water when they started, but to hear their testimonies and see them in action on the

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Mark Your Calendars!

APRIL 30 – MAY 3

2006 International Boating and Water Safety Summit (IBWSS)
Palm Harbor, Florida

MAY 3

General Membership Meeting and Election of NWSC Board and Officers

at IBWSS

Wednesday, 4:30 - 5:00 p.m.



Call For Nominations

The National Water Safety Congress is currently accepting Nominations for its Board of Directors for its next election in April 2006.

Board members serve for a two-year period and are expected to attend a fall Board meeting and a spring meeting held in conjunction with the International Boating and Water Safety Summit (IBWSS), and are expected to cover their travel expenses. If you are interested in serving on the Board and would like additional information please contact Joe Morgan, Chair, Membership Committee, at 202-502-6377. To be a candidate for election, submit a one-page resume to joseph.morgan@ferc.gov.

WATER SAFETY JOURNAL

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A publication of the National Water Safety Congress, a tax-exempt, nonprofit, public service organization dedicated to water safety.

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The *Water Safety Journal* is produced three times yearly by the National Water Safety Congress, P.O. Box 1632, Mentor, OH 44061. Phone (440) 209-9805

Send address changes to journal@watersafetycongress.org

National Water Safety Congress

CORPORATE SPONSORS

LEMTA

LEMTA is a trade association of more than 100 recreational boat dealers, marina operators and pleasure boat service companies located across northern Ohio and also plays the key role in looking out for the consumer. Formed 50 years ago, LEMTA is recognized as the leading spokesman for Ohio boating, dedicated to improving all aspects of this family sport. The Association is addressing, through local, state and national programs, issues such as improved public dockage, increased launching ramp access, greater fishing opportunities, improved water quality and increased industry service and professionalism. LEMTA's BoatOhio program is designed to increase awareness of the myriad of boating activities and locations that can be enjoyed by families interested in making boating their chosen recreation. LEMTA is an organization which exercises a strong voice for the growth and protection of family boating in Ohio.

Brunswick Boating Group

Brunswick Boat Group helps to keep things afloat as the world's largest builder of pleasure boats. A global leader in the leisure products industry, Brunswicks pleasure boat brands include Sea Ray, Bayliner, Boston Whaler, Lund and Hatteras, just to name a few.

Mustang

For over 30 years, Mustang Survival has been committed to providing life solutions for people exposed to the most hazardous environment. Through innovative new processes and technologies we have become the premier supplier of protective garments for the most demanding users, from weekend sailors to fighter pilots and even NASA astronauts. When your mission, work or recreation brings you face to face with hazardous environments, you can count on Mustang Survival equipment for protection!

PWIA

Founded in 1987, the Personal Watercraft Industry Association was created to bring together companies that manufacture personal watercraft in order to promote safe and responsible operation and work with federal, state and local agencies which have regulatory responsibilities for recreational boating.

Intex Recreation Group

Intex Recreation Corp. is a part of the global "Intex Family" – a premier supplier of inflatable water recreation products and above the ground swimming pools.

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IBWSS Schedule

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11:00 - 11:50 a.m.

USCG Office of Boating Safety RBS Program Strategic Plan

12:00 - 1:45 p.m.

Lunch and PFD Demo at the Pool

2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

PSA Workshop... "Doing something very good with very little"

3:15 - 3:35 p.m.

2006 North American Safe Boating Campaign, A Different Approach

3:35 - 4:30 p.m.

Improving Boating Safety on Our Waterways: A Marketing Approach

4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Meeting
FERC/Hydropower Group Meeting
Paddlesport Safety Meeting

Tuesday, May 2

7:30 - 8:30 a.m.

Continental Breakfast

GENERAL SESSIONS

8:30 - 9:20 a.m.

Applying Best Professional Practices in Boating & Water Safety Education

9:30 - 10:20 a.m.

Paddlesport Standards and Best Practices

10:40 - 11:30 a.m.

Open Forum

12:00 - 1:30 p.m.

Lunch on the Beach

1:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Off-Site Water/Beach Activities
Golf Outing

Wednesday, May 3

7:00 - 7:50 a.m.

Continental Breakfast

CONCURRENT BREAKOUT TRACKS

You may select from these five tracks:

1. Education

2. Outreach and Communication

3. Risk Management

4. Law Enforcement

5. Audience Polling

8:00 - 8:50 a.m.

1. Boating Education Advancement Award Winner
2. International Outreach in the Caribbean
3. FERC
4. Effective Interagency Coordination of Enforcement Activities
5. Audience Polling

9:00 - 9:50 a.m.

1. Boating Education Advancement Award Winner
2. How You See It Depends on Where You're Standing
3. FERC
4. Implementation of a BUI Enforcement Task Force
5. Audience Polling

10:00 - 10:50 a.m.

1. Boating Education Advancement Award Winner
2. Challenge: Zero Drownings Summer 2005
3. FERC
4. WIT Program
5. Audience Polling

11:00 - 11:50 a.m.

1. Boating Education Advancement Award Winner
2. The Second National Safe Boating Test
3. So You've Just Been Sued, What You Need To Know
4. Changes in MPOC
5. Audience Polling

12:00 - 1:30 p.m.

National Water Safety Congress Awards Luncheon

1:30 - 2:20 p.m.

1. Boating Safety Youth Award
2. Hey It's Cold in Here
3. The Safety Message via Water Trails
4. Marine Sanitation Study: Water Quality Measurements
5. Audience Polling

2:30 - 3:20 p.m.

1. All Children Should Learn To Swim
2. Share, Share, Share – Educational Tools for All Ages
3. Stress Management for Public Safety Personnel
4. PWC Patrol and Search & Rescue Techniques
5. Audience Polling

3:30 - 4:20 p.m.

1. Short Course Appealing to the Internet Generation
2. Boating Education as a Critical Component of SRU Aquatic Minor
3. PA Trail, Trails Program
4. IAMI/H.I.N. 101
5. Audience Polling

4:30 - 5:00 p.m.

NWSC General Membership Meeting and Elections

6:00 - 6:30 p.m.

Reception and Networking

6:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Awards Banquet
Poster/PSA Contest Winners Announced
Prize Drawings

— POST CONFERENCE EVENTS —

Thursday, May 4

7:00 - 10:00 a.m.

NWSC Board of Directors' Meeting

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

NSBC Instructor Training Course*²
The Marina Safety Workshop*¹
Surviving an Icy Plunge*¹
Safe Swimming Beaches*²

Friday May 5

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

NSBC Instructor Training Course*²

**These course require an additional fee.*

¹Call NWSC to pre-register for this course.

²Call NSBC to pre-register for this course.

Congratulations

Announcing the NWSC Grant Recipients for 2006

The NWSC congratulates the following organizations on being the 2006 recipients of the Grass Roots grants programs. This year the Congress, with the assistance of the USCG Office of Boating Safety, has awarded \$15,337.88 to partners around the country to assist them in carrying out their boating and water safety programs. We wish them all the best of luck and greatest success in 2006.

- 1. United States Power Squadron**
North Carolina
\$750.00
Reproduction of Materials for "Water Smart From the Start" Program
- 2. Safe Kids Finger Lakes**
New York
\$1500.00
Wild Water Derby / Ice & Cold Water Safety Education
- 3. North Central Ohio Boating Council**
Ohio
\$500.00
Boating & Water Safety Festival
- 4. Lake Parks Foundation**
Ohio
\$1360.00
Wear PFD's / Water Safety Message on Wristbands
- 5. Iowa Great Lakes Water Safety Council**
Iowa
\$800.00
Kiosks and Posters
- 6. Kerrs-Buggs Island Safety Council**
Virginia
\$1227.88
Reflective Water Safety Signs / Wear PFD's
- 7. Kerrs-Buggs Island Safety Council**
Virginia
\$1500.00
10,000 Summer Safety Coloring Books for 7 parks in 2 states
- 8. River Rescue Community Life Team Volunteer Relief**
Pennsylvania
\$1500.00
Safety Brochure and Decals with Safety Messages
- 9. Phoenix Sail and Power Squadron**
Arizona
\$1500.00
Boating Celebration / National Safe Boating Week
- 10. Bay Sea Scouts**
Ohio
\$500.00
Required and Safety Equipment for Training Vessel
- 11. Lorain Sailing and Yacht Club**
Ohio
\$1500.00
Grow Jr. Sail Program
- 12. Lorain Sea Scout Foundation**
Ohio
\$1200.00
Inflatable Dinghy for Safety / Rescue Programs
- 13. Lake Parks Foundation**
Ohio
\$1000.00
Paddle For A Purpose (Skin Cancer Awareness Paddle)
- 14. Lake Erie Marine Trades Association**
Ohio
\$500.00
North Coast Harbor Boating, Fishing, and Seafood Fest / Promotional Materials

ODNR Awards Grants to Promote Boating Safety Education Statewide

COLUMBUS, OH – Twenty-six organizations across Ohio have been awarded a total of \$352,661 in grants to conduct safe boating education programs, according to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Watercraft. The grant amounts range between \$1,410 and \$30,000.

The annual grants assist local community organizations in their efforts to increase boating education and helping young boaters meet the provisions of Ohio's mandatory boater education law.

The Division of Watercraft, U.S.

Power Squadrons, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, the U.S. Coast Guard and other boating partners will offer more than 450 boating education classes this year statewide.

2006 ODNR Division of Watercraft Boating Education Grant Recipients include NWSC Award Winners and Grassroots Grant Recipients

Ashtabula County Educational Service Center – \$11,815

Bay Village Schools – \$9,000

Greater Cleveland Safe Boating Council – \$23,250

North Central Ohio Safe Boating Council – \$18,950

Spirit of America Foundation – \$22,535

Lake Metroparks – \$14,322

Lorain Educational Service Center – \$12,785

Mohican School in the Out of Doors – \$7,125



What's New in YOUR Region?

Region 1 – New York

New personal watercraft law focuses on young operators

A new state law aimed at reining in the use of personal watercraft by children has toughened requirements for riders under the age of 14.

The law, which took effect January 1, increased the minimum age for operating a personal watercraft unsupervised to 14 from 10 and will eventually ban operation by children under the age of 14 altogether.

“Untrained kids don’t know the rules, and they are hauling their friends at 60 mph, so the potential of someone getting hurt goes up,” said Bryan Williams, a staff officer with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.

New York was one of three states that allowed children as young as 10 to operate watercraft without supervision. State law requires all personal watercraft operators to have a boating safety certificate.

The new law, signed by Gov. George Pataki in July, mandates that children ages 10 to 13 operating a personal watercraft must be accompanied by someone who is at least 18 years old on a vessel within 500 feet in plain sight of the child. The adult also must have a boating safety certificate.

The law will ban operation by children 13 and younger after Jan. 1, 2009.

Personal watercraft accounted for 25 percent of all accidents reported in the nation to the Coast Guard in 2004. More than 950 people were injured in accidents in 2004, 331 of which were 19 or younger, according to the Coast Guard’s annual Recreational Boating Report.

Nita Boles, spokeswoman for the Coalition of Parents and Families for Personal Watercraft Safety, said the state’s new law is a step in the right direction.

According to the organization’s Web site, nine children ages 6 to 17 were killed in personal watercraft accidents from July 4 to August 4, 2004.

“These are not toys, just like all-terrain vehicles. Parents and adults need to be proactive,” said Boles, whose 16-year-old daughter was killed in a personal watercraft accident in Texas nearly 8 years ago. “I’m glad to see this for the sake of the kids.”

Region 2 – Minnesota

Podcasting for Boat and Water Safety by Tim Smalley

I have been vaguely aware of podcasts for about a year or so. There’s been a lot of buzz in the techno-press about podcasts and I had even tried my hand at downloading a couple successfully.

I hadn’t really thought much more about them until the November 2005 TV sweeps, when one of the local stations did a story on podcasting. They talked about what a podcast was and how easy they were to do. They interviewed a number of people who were doing them out of their living rooms, basements and backyards.

The word “podcast” comes from the now borderline-ubiquitous iPod from Apple. There are now a number of other brands out there. The latest iPods not only play MP3 audio files, but videos too. According to *USA Today*, 32 million iPods were sold in 2005. A podcast, to put in as non-technogeek-ish terms as possible, is a radio show posted on the Internet. You can listen to it on your computer, or if you have an iPod-like device, its software will automatically go out and look where you tell it to find the podcasts to which you have subscribed.

You can also go to podcasting search engines (www.podcasting.net) and enter a term that describes what you are interested in and the search engine will go out and find podcasts that match those criteria. For example, “parks”. Click on whichever one that interests you, and you will be taken to their site.

After seeing the TV news show, I had a “eureka!” moment. It’s easy, it’s cheap, and most importantly, it’s an efficient way to get our message to the public. I bought a couple of books on Podcasting and within a couple of weeks, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources had its first podcast posted on our website.

I am always trying to figure out new ways to get people to pay attention to our water safety message. I asked a local pro-angler, Terry Tuma, to come in to talk about ice fishing.

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Lake Metroparks

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Division of Watercraft and through gifts from the Spirit of America youth boating education program. The diversity of boats and the access to a protected harbor on Lake Erie make for a great venue for this adapted program.



The adapted boating program is set up as a six-week program, meeting for an hour each week. For the participants, it is both an opportunity to try new things and a chance to socialize with their friends. Lifeguards and park volunteers assist the young adults with disabilities. The program includes education and safety training with kayaks, sailboats and powerboats. The students learned that it is okay to be nervous, but there is no reason to be scared. For some of the students this was their first time in any type of watercraft. The stress level is lowered by staff members who make the adventure fun!

Each week a different watercraft is used with activities varying from surfing waves in double kayaks to a tour of the harbor in a powerboat. Sailing instruction can be particularly challenging as some students were immediately nervous in the boats. Often a catamaran sailboat is used because of its stability.

This one-of-a-kind program facilitates interaction between young adults with disabilities and volunteers who enrich each other’s lives through participation in fun and healthy recreational activities. Through programs such as this, Lake Metroparks’ staff and volunteers work to remove attitudinal barriers that confront individuals with disabilities. Participants continue to demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of skills and friendship with their families, other special needs individuals and the community.

Congratulations to Lake Metroparks, Northern United States Boating Education Advancement Award (BEAA) winners. We wish them luck as they compete for the North American (International) Boating Education Advancement Award at this year’s Summit!

What's New

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Steve Carroll from our staff interviewed Terry and me in our little recording booth and as Terry talked about ice fishing, I would jump in with my safety schtick. Dale Newton, our AV guy, recorded us and converted the file to a 30 minute long MP3 file. I then brought the CD to our web guru and he soon had it up on our website.

Was it worth it? We checked with our web person as to how many people actually downloaded it. The podcast/audio file was downloaded 2,500 times in December. I suspect most of those downloads were listened to on home computers rather than portable devices but the actual pod link was hit 807 times – those are actual times the file was scanned by people's "podcatcher" software. Our second podcast, posted in early January, was downloaded nearly 3,500 times.

Our web folks tell us that these are very good numbers, especially for a first try with something with such a low cost for the department to produce and post on the web. If you have a quiet place to record that isn't too echo prone, a decent microphone, and a computer with recording software (we use the free "Audacity" program www.audacity.sourceforge.net) and a book on Podcasting you can do this. I found "Podcasting the do-it-yourself Guide" and "Podcasting for Dummies" very helpful.

If you are interested in trying to set up your own FREE podcast as an experiment I found an online "screencast" from a Drexel University professor that walks you through the steps visually.

You can listen to the two ice fishing podcasts we have posted on an MP3 player or any just about home computer connected to the internet at www.dnr.state.mn.us and click on DNR Podcasts.

PFD Use Requirements Legislation Update

Indiana – Postponed legislative action until next year to close loophole in current law that PFD use requirement is not applicable to children on sole State waters.

Iowa – The Iowa House Natural Resources Committee heard House Study Bill 555, which establishes a PFD use requirement for children under age 13 on February 1. The Department of Natural Resources actively supported the measure. Other proponents included the Property and Casualty Insurers, the Iowa Medical Society, and Safe Kids. Only two of the legislators were opposed. However, the House leadership appears to be opposed. It was expected that the committee would act upon the bill in February, but floor action is uncertain due to the leadership's objections. There is strong support for a PFD requirement in the Senate, which has approved similar bills in previous years.

Wisconsin – Legislation requiring children age 12 and under to use PFDs passed the Senate (24-9) in November 2005 but was not acted upon by the Assembly. The Assembly Natural Resources Committee unanimously approved the companion bill. Both bills are pending in Rules Committee. The BLA and Power Squadron expect supporters to press for a full Assembly vote.

Region 5 – California

Winners of Boating Poster Contest Announced

Ten California students have been named winners in the 2006 "Safe and Wise Water Ways" poster contest sponsored by the Department of Boating and Waterways (Cal Boating).

The students, from kindergarten through eighth grade, each received two \$100 education savings bonds and a commemorative medallion, and their artistic creations are featured on the department's 2006 "Safe and Wise Water Ways" calendar.

The winning artwork was selected from more than 2,400 entries. They were judged on a combination of theme execution and merit by a panel of judges, including Cal Boating staff, members of the media, representatives from the Department of Health Services, the Department of Water Resources, the Sacramento Metro Fire Department, UC Davis Medical Center Partners in Prevention and Sacramento State Media Services.

Winning pictures and the poster can be viewed at: <http://dbw.ca.gov/postercontest>. →



(L to R) Fishing pro Terry Tuma, MN DNR boat and water safety specialist Tim Smalley and MN DNR media relations specialist Steve Carroll, record Minnesota's first podcast to help spread the word about water safety.

Photo by Deb Rose

Region 4 – Oklahoma

Mandatory Boater Education Bill

The **Mandatory Boater Education Bill, SB 1495**, cleared its first hurdle yesterday when it was passed unanimously by the Senate committee for further consideration. This is the first time since work began 10 years ago referencing mandatory boater education, that the bill has made it out of committee. Chances are looking very good for its passage this year. So far, we are not aware of any opposition to this bill. Now is the time for everyone concerned about boating safety in Oklahoma to encourage their legislators to support the Kyle Williams Boater Education Bill, SB 1495.

Region 6 – Oregon

Fatalities Create Push for Life Jacket Legislation

Repercussions from last August's fatal charter boat accident at Winchester Bay in Oregon continue to send reverberations through coastal boating. The U.S. Coast Guard indicted the captain of the vessel for Seaman's Manslaughter for failure to explain safety protocols to the passengers and failure to have them put on life jackets in rough conditions. The captain could face 30 years in prison for the deaths of three of his four passengers. The indictment alleges the Sydney Mae went down because of the captain's decision to approach the Umpqua River bar, despite warnings of rough conditions. The Coast Guard also had restricted recreational and uninspected passenger vessels from crossing the bar.

One of the victims was the friend of a former legislator, who is now a county commissioner. This individual is pushing for **legislation to require the wearing of life jackets when crossing bars**. The legislative session is a year away and his effort is meeting with resistance from the charter community and others. This is the second major charter accident in the last three years, plus several accidents involving guided fishing boats that resulted in fatalities. The spotlight is shining on this issue and more coverage is likely to occur in the coming year.



U.S. Coast Guard and NSBC: Sidekicks in Safety

New Project Will Help Adult Leaders and Educators Teach Elementary School Aged Youth About Safe Boating

by John M. Malatak
Chief, Program Operations Division
U.S. Coast Guard Office of
Boating Safety

The U.S. Coast Guard's Office of Boating Safety is partnering with the National Safe Boating Council (NSBC) to develop an **Adult Leader Guide** to aid teachers in educating elementary school aged children about safe boating concepts. The Guide will stress the importance of boaters being "in command" and "responsible" for their boats at all times and using proper behavior on the water is the best way to avoid danger.

Our goal is to reach as many children as possible with concepts around boating safety. By starting early, we can introduce a whole new generation to safe boating practices that can save lives in the event of an accident on the water.

With that in mind, we are developing a tool that is timely, accurate and, above all, kid-friendly. Consisting of seven "modules" or chapters, the Guide will—for the first time—combine elements of the U.S. Coast Guard's "You're in Command. Boat Responsibly!" initiative with the NSBC's recognizable and kid-friendly Sidekicks. "You're in Command" is a multi-year initiative mixing promotional and educational outreach efforts to emphasize four tenets of boating safety:



1. Always wear a life jacket.
2. Take a boating safety course.
3. Get a free Vessel Safety Check (VSC).
4. Never boat under the influence of alcohol or drugs (BUI).

The Adult Leader Guide can be utilized by teaching authorities or group leaders that work with children in various settings. By targeting mentors such as camp counselors, coaches, scout leaders, and of course, teachers, the Coast Guard will ensure that the material—as engaging as it is fun—will reach a maximum

number of children. Current plans are to distribute both paper and online copies of the Guide.

The Adult Leader Guide initiative will feature the Sidekicks characters, profiling them in a variety of boating stories, each one highlighting a particular "You're in Command" boating safety concept. The stories are followed by a series of quizzes and activities that reinforce the concept from a variety of angles; activities range from question and answer games to card games. Throughout the exercises, kids will have an opportunity to learn everything from the importance of life jacket wear to basic navigation rules and the proper course of action when they find themselves accidentally overboard.



In developing this educational tool, we put a high priority on ease and usefulness, two essentials for the classroom. Accordingly, the Office of Boating Safety outlined

several goals for the Adult Leader Guide and developed the following strategies:

Goal #1: Ensure Wide Appeal

To appeal to various ages and facilitate a variety of teaching methods, the Leader Guide will be available in several versions. One version is geared towards first and second graders, another is tailored for third and fourth graders, while the last version is designed for fifth graders.

Goal #2: Include Diverse Teaching Methods

By incorporating a variety of activities on both individual and group levels, the toolkit provides teachers and mentors with a host of teaching tools that enforce repeated exposure to core boating safety concepts. The Adult Leader Guide makes use of repetitive exposure, ensuring the likelihood that kids will retain the concepts we are trying to instill.

Goal #3: Enhance Usefulness and Simplicity

Creating a toolkit that is useful for mentors and simple for kids is a high priority.



Activity pieces are easily replaceable if lost or damaged. Additionally, all Guide visuals complement the educational material, rather than distract from key concepts and messages.

Goal #4: Communicate "You're in Command"

In addition to promoting general boating safety concepts, we also want to utilize the Adult Leader Guide to reinforce the four basic tenets of the "You're in Command. Boat Responsibly!" initiative. In addition to stressing safe boating practices, the Guide also serves as an introduction to boating in general—often an unfamiliar topic to children.

Goal #5: Maintain Flexibility

The simplicity of the Adult Leader Guide allows for the addition of "extras" that can make the guide more interesting or pertinent for differing groups and lesson plans. For example, illustrated charts, posters, and instructions for related projects such as science experiments and craft building will be easily downloadable or can be obtained with the kit.

Bringing the principles of the 'You're in Command' campaign to kids in a fun and compelling way is yet another extension of our multi-year national initiative. We are grateful to the National Safe Boating Council for giving the Coast Guard an established and proven channel for teaching kids safe boating concepts.

The U.S. Coast Guard asks all boat owners and operators to help reduce fatalities, injuries, property damage, and associated healthcare costs related to recreational boating accidents by taking personal responsibility for their own safety and the safety of their passengers.

NWSC congratulates the USCG and NSBC for their in-classroom education program, a perfect complement and an early start for the hands-on Spirit of America program for children in the 7th grade.

The BoatU.S. Foundation Sponsors Life Jacket Design Contest

By the December 16, 2005, deadline for Life Jacket Design contest entries, Foundation staff found themselves buried under boxes and boxes of submissions from around the world. In all, there were countless inquiries and 182 submissions from inventors vying for the \$5,000 contest prize.

"We knew people felt strongly that new life jackets styles should be available," said Ruth Wood, president of the BoatU.S. Foundation, "but we never dreamed we'd see this much interest."

Thinking Outside The Box...

The contest challenged inventors to think beyond the orange Type II and consider a cost-effective jacket that boaters could – and would – comfortably wear.



Sponsored by the BoatU.S. Foundation and the Personal Flotation Device Manufacturers Association (PFDMA), the competition was designed to foster the development of new ideas about how life jackets are designed and built. We received designs from school-aged children, college students, design schools, established inventors, and old salts. Submissions came from 36 states and six countries and ranged from very simple drawings to complex schematics and mock-ups of the design.

In January, the six contest judges gathered at BoatU.S. headquarters and reviewed the entries for innovation, reliability and value. It was a tough choice, but the judges have made their

Innovations in Life Jacket Design COMPETITION

Can You Build a Better One?

selection. **Adam Malcom**, a graduate student in the University of Virginia's Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Program, was awarded the \$5,000 grand prize. The award was presented during ceremonies at the Miami Boat Show on February 16.

Malcom's winning entry was a slender belt worn around the waist. The unit would stay out of the way and not retain body heat. When activated either manually with a ripcord or automatically via a CO2 gas cylinder, slender, symmetrically-arranged air bladders stored inside the belt inflate rising up to surround the wearer on all sides. No secondary action, such as sliding flotation over the head, is necessary. You simply float much like you would in an inner tube.



Honorable mention goes to: Sean Denham, a student at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, VA; Lisa Ma, Wayne Chang and Peter Tong of I3 Design in Pittsburgh, PA; Nicholas Weigel who attends Kendall College of Art and Design in Grand Rapids, MI; Virginia Tech student Andrew Valentine; and Mario DiForte, Jr. of Baltimore, MD.

Sponsors

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Dedicated to the safe enjoyment of water recreation for families worldwide, our products adhere to the strictest mandatory and voluntary safety standards. We are proud to support this Congress and other organizations dedicated to water safety education. Visit us at www.intexcorp.com.

ALCOA

Alcoa-Yadkin encourages recreational lake users to "play it safe on the lakes" by always wearing a life jacket. With the support of North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, the US Coast Guard Auxiliary and local law enforcement agencies, Alcoa-Yadkin has launched a public awareness campaign that includes print and radio ads produced in both English and Spanish.

Lower Colorado River Authority

The mission of the Lower Colorado River Authority is to provide reliable, low-cost utility and public services in partnership with our customers and communities and to use our leadership role and environmental authority to ensure the protections and constructive use of the area's natural resources.

Robotronics

Robotronics is the world leader in safety education products, targeted especially towards children 14 years old and younger. With almost 5,000 interactive robotic characters, and thousands of costumed and educational materials in use around the world, no other private organization has a greater commitment to promoting safety awareness and injury prevention for children.

Kawasaki Motors Corp., U.S.A.

Markets and sells at wholesale Kawasaki motorcycles, ATV'S, personal watercraft and utility vehicles through a network of more than 1,500 independent retailers, with an additional 8,400 retailers specializing in power products and general purpose engines. KMC and its affiliates employ nearly 2,400 people in the United States. Kawasaki's tagline, "Let the good times roll", is recognized worldwide and the brand is aggressively carrying its heritage of leading-edge power, performance and exhilaration in to the 21st century.

Benefits of NWSC Membership!

Please visit us on line for your application to become a member of the NWSC today! Applications can be downloaded, printed and sent to our office, or join directly through the web site.

Individuals, companies, agencies, and organizations –

Expand your influence through NWSC membership!

Members of the NWSC receive:

- Opportunity to participate in a first-class annual international professional development, training and education programs.
- Professional recognition through participation in national, regional and local awards programs.
- *The Water Safety Journal* – current water safety news and information.
- Opportunity for input into national, state, and local legislation with support of the national organization.
- Access to the expertise of water safety professionals across the country.
- Opportunity to develop international contacts with water safety professionals from other countries.
- Discounts on NWSC sponsored classes.

President

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water confirms all that I have heard about this program. It is an honor for the Congress to be able to partner with SOA in the effort of expanding this program throughout the nation.

There has also been a change in staff at our corporate office in Mentor, Ohio. In addition to having Cecilia Duer as our Executive Director, Patricia A. Jablonski as our Financial Officer, and Bonnie Breyley as our Executive Assistant, we now have Donna Angus as Editor of the *Water Safety Journal*. She has done a wonderful job in giving a fresh look to the *Journal*, reflecting the Congress' new direction. Folks, you can't imagine the work these girls do for Congress. It has been such a pleasure working with them. The friendship I have acquired while working with them will be the most valuable bounty I will take with me as I hand over the ship's helm to our Executive VP, Arlyn Hendricks.

I want to thank all of our partners for their support and collaboration in the many projects we share. A special thanks to the National Safe Boating Council, our co-partners, in organizing and producing the International Boating and Water Safety Summit (IBWSS). It has been fun to work with the Council and it has been one of the most rewarding aspects of my term. The Summit provides the premier educational experience for boating and water safety professionals from the field where every day they make a difference while protecting those recreating on and near the water. The Summit provides new methods to manage the water ways, educate the public, and instill the importance of our mission in future generations.

I look forward to seeing the Congress continue to grow and serve its members in future years. With its upcoming new leadership, I am more than confident the Congress will stay committed to taking a lead role in advancing the promotion of education for the safety of recreational water activities throughout the United States, and internationally.

I look forward to seeing each of you at this year's IBWSS at the Westin Innisbrook in Palm Harbor, FL, April 30 through May 4. Once again, we're hoping to share with you one of the best Summits ever and I know you will agree that was a good investment of your time.

Sincerely,
Bobby Noah Pharr
President
National Water Safety Congress

MARCH 2006

Who's Who in Water Safety: NWSC Member Awards & Recognition

House Joint Resolution 735 By West

A Resolution to Honor and Commend Ed Carter of the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency and Chairman, National Safe Boating Council

"Whereas, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those public servants who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves during their careers; and

Whereas, one such noteworthy person is Ed Carter, a boating law administrator for the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency who was recently honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award by the National Association of State Boating Administrators for having contributed to boating safety throughout his career; and

Whereas, a TWRA employee for over 33 years, Mr. Carter has spent much of his career building the TWRA boating program and serving as the chief of boating; he has also served as the agency's emergency services coordinator for more than 15 years; and

Whereas, highly admired and greatly respected by his peers and colleagues, Ed Carter is a two-time President of the National Association of State Boating Administrators; and

Whereas, Ed Carter epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean and this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud him for his dedication to the state of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

Be it resolved by The House of Representatives of the One Hundred Fourth General Assembly of the state of Tennessee, the Senate concurring, that we hereby honor and commend Ed Carter for his meritorious service to the state of Tennessee and extend to him our best wishes for every future success."

NWSC salutes you, Ed!

Ken Alvey Honored at Cleveland Boat Show

Ken Alvey, former chief of the ODNR Division of Watercraft, was presented with the U.S. Coast Guard's Meritorious Public Service Award by Rear Admiral and 9th District Commander Robert J. Papp Jr. The award, which is the third highest Coast Guard civilian award and one that requires Congressional approval, recognizes Alvey's 33-year ODNR career, which began in 1972 as a state watercraft officer and ended in October 2005 when he retired as chief of the Division of Watercraft.

Ken's retirement only lasted until mid-January when he accepted the position of Executive Vice President with Lake Erie Marine Trades Association (LEMETA). He will be moving into the President's seat after May 1.

Best wishes to you from everyone at NWSC!

US Army Corp of Engineers Hurricane Response

2005 was a devastating year for hurricanes. Six months after three major hurricanes, Katrina, Rita, and Wilma, struck the US, we still have daily updates on major news broadcasts.

Many USACE employees were pre-positioned to respond to the hurricanes and many employees continue to be deployed to date. At the height of the response to the hurricanes, USACE had approximately 11% of our total work force of greater than 34,000 deployed for emergency hurricane response and recovery. As this article was being written in late February, over 2,100 USACE employees continued to be deployed and we anticipate a continued recovery effort for many months to come.

Many present and past members of the NWSC deployed for hurricane response. NWSC Board of Directors known by this author to have deployed include Lu Christie, Alan Bland, Arlyn Hendricks, Ernie Lentz, Jack Murray, Mike Robinson, and Mac Wimbish. Others provided support at their home duty stations or shouldered heavier workloads to make-up for the deployment of co-workers.

The road to recovery is long but the Corps has provided integral assistance toward that recovery. USACE has a very proud heritage of service to the Nation in both peacetime and war.

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