

SCA

small craft advisory

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National Association of State Boating Law Administrators

INFLATABLES — WORTH EVERY PENNY



EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR



Peer Educator Program



SCA

small craft advisory

The official publication
of the National Association
of State Boating Law Administrators

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About the Cover

A marine deputy with the Clearwater County (Idaho) Sheriff's Office for 11 years, Corporal Mike Gladhart spends over 500 hours a year on marine patrols. With boating education as a top priority, he has a strong passion for teaching boating education and water safety. Because of his extensive work in boat safety education, Cpl. Gladhart was chosen as the 2013 Boating Educator of the Year by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators.

Clearwater County Sheriff's Office photos

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from the Helm



Toby Velasquez
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Transforming boating education

Any seasoned sailor can explain why you can't sail directly into the wind. To sail towards the direction of the wind, a skipper must tack back and forth, in essence 'climbing' the wind across the water. Just think of the impact to sailing if a newly introduced sail design allowed the boat to move directly upwind without the need to tack. This innovation would immediately change sailing – and perhaps the future of the boating community – forever. The introduction of such a new sail design would be a game changer.

A game changer transforms the way something is thought about or accomplished. An individual or association with new and different ideas that stand out from the crowd can be identified as a game changer, as well. In the Recreational Boating Safety (RBS) program, NASBLA is well established as a game changer, often altering strategies and employing tactics to meet expanding expectations within the boating program while advancing recreational boating and security for the nation's boaters.

This issue of Small Craft Advisory highlights education. In most states, the terms 'boating education' and 'NASBLA-approved' are synonymous. In fact, every state and U.S. territory offers a NASBLA-approved boating education course to the public, REGARDLESS of whether it is state-mandated or not. A certificate earned in a NASBLA-approved course reflects adherence to a widely recognized community standard.

According to state reports, a record number 491,525 students earned certificates from NASBLA-approved courses in 2012, with nearly three million certificates awarded since 2006 (the year states began completing Performance Report Part II statistics for the U.S. Coast Guard – see figure 1). The National Boating Education Standards, and NASBLA's verification of course content through the approval

Education Standards Panel's work toward recognition of the Basic Boating Knowledge American National Standard (ANS), and 2) development of the RBS Professional Certification. Here's a quick overview of the history and importance of each:

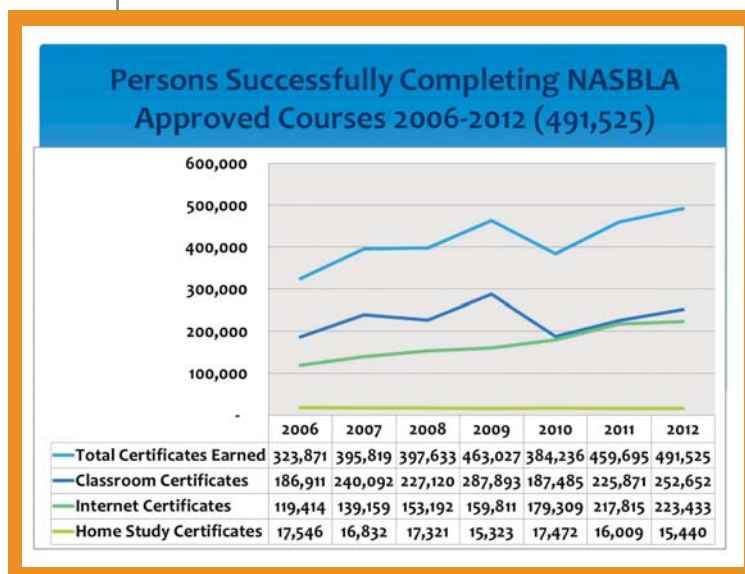
- **Basic Boating Knowledge American National Standard (ANS):** In late 2010 NASBLA authorized creation of the

National Boating Education Standards Panel – a consensus body separated from NASBLA membership-based votes – and empowered it to adopt a consensus-based standards development process conforming to the ANSI (American National Standards Institute) Essential Requirements for due process.

Full future recognition of NASBLA as an ANSI SDO (Standards Developer Organization) will provide advancement to the existing boating education program in deeply significant ways. For example, several state legislatures do not recognize

NASBLA as a voluntary standard-setting entity. ANSI, however, is widely recognized by legislative bodies of state, federal, and international governments. Achieving accreditation of the National Boating Education Standard as an American National Standard (ANS) through the ANSI process is a vital step toward uniform recognition and enactment in states and territories not yet mandating boater education. ANSI bridges the gap between standards developers and the governmental agencies that create legislation.

(Continued on page 35)



process, was an education game changer, focusing massive boater education efforts into a targeted, entry-level program of basic boater knowledge.

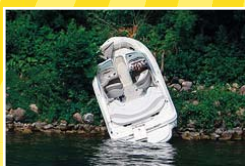
Just as NASBLA's Boat Operations and Training (BOAT) program and boating under the influence innovations have advanced our national RBS law enforcement and homeland security work, NASBLA continues to drive advancement in the realm of boater education and professional development. Current work centers on two distinct fronts: 1) the



GPS FORENSICS



*The latest course offering in NASBLA's BOAT Program
Developed by Officer Paul Alber with the Palm Beach Police Department
Learn how to recover evidence from GPS devices and prepare it
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8-hour course. Topics covered:

- *History of GPS system*
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- *Presenting the results in the courtroom*

For more information, visit **www.nasbla.org/boat**.

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NASBLA News

NASBLA creates RBS Professional Certification Advisory Committee

This summer, NASBLA began setting up the RBS Professional Certification Advisory Committee, whose members will help shape the future of recreational boating safety (RBS) in this country by contributing their time and effort in shaping the criteria for the recognition of those leaders in the RBS industry.

This committee will look at the RBS program in its entirety to develop the RBS Professional Certification, a voluntary program designed to elevate professional standards, enhance individual performance and designate recreational boating safety (RBS) professionals who demonstrate the knowledge essential to RBS program management. It is anticipated that earning the RBS Professional Certification will become THE hallmark of a committed program professional.

The Advisory Committee will be comprised of representatives with a full range of experience levels (from seasoned personnel to staff new to the RBS program) from major aspects of the RBS program, including education, training, law enforcement, vessel numbering/titling, access and accident reporting.

Malatak named as certification program manager



In August, John Malatak joined NASBLA as the association's certification program manager. Working as a contract program manager from Nashville, John brings more than 42 years of professional experience from the American Red Cross and the U.S. Coast Guard to this new role in developing the RBS Professional Certification Program.

While at the American Red Cross more than two decades ago, John helped launch a national certification program that continues to serve the needs of the preparedness and safety community today. His wealth of experience in that organization, as well as his years of service to the recreational boating community in the U.S. Coast Guard, will serve our association well as he helps us lead our certification efforts. Working collaboratively with NASBLA education

director Pam Dillon, among John's first responsibilities will be starting up the RBS Professional Certification Program Advisory Committee.

The advisory committee will be modeled after the highly successful National Education Standards Panel (ESP), as well as the equally effective BOAT Program Advisory Board. John can be reached at John.Malatak@nasbla.org. Please join us in welcoming him aboard.

State RBS leaders gather in Lexington for leadership training



The week of July 22-26, the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators hosted its third BLA Training Academy, providing 10 new boating law administrators with a broad understanding of the diverse recreational boating community while also offering an opportunity to interact with other new BLAs.

The 2013-14 New BLA Class:

- Mark Brown, Oklahoma
- Shane Carrier, Kentucky
- Jon Cornish, Maine
- Cathy Fetterman, Maine
- Sylvia Hunter, California
- Ty Hunter, Utah
- Cody Jones, Texas
- Stan Linnell, Minnesota
- Mark Richerson, Missouri
- Kenton Turner, Indiana
- Rachel Zechenelly, Louisiana

The academy kicked off Monday morning with DISC assessment of each attendee and discussion on related values and motivators assessments. The afternoon provided discussion on coaching.

Tuesday brought an overview of NASBLA, the Sport Fish Restoration & Boating Trust Fund and related government affairs skills, as well as the roles and responsibilities faced by BLAs.

On Wednesday morning the attendees learned about the Boat Operations and Training program and the training opportunities it provides marine law enforcement officers. The afternoon's discussion focused on the importance of accident reporting, followed by a discussion on education standards and professional credentialing for boating safety professionals.

Thursday's discussion provided an overview of the National Recreational Boating Safety Grant Program, the National Recreational Boating Safety Program, and resources and partnerships in the RBS program.

The week ended with a presentation on the changing demographic trends in the U.S. and discussion on how they will impact the nation, the states, agencies and BLAs.

Editor recognized with award

BECOMING a safer BOATER

By Kimberly Jenkins

National mandatory boating education on the horizon?

At around the classroom, my colleagues gave a warm welcome to what I expected. Although I have always been a boater, I have never taken a boating safety course.

I didn't like the need to attend such a class. After all, I love a boat and I love operating a boat. I was going for the fun, not the education. I was going for the fun, not the education. I was going for the fun, not the education.

It turns out that I wasn't the only one. In the first 15 minutes of the class, I met a lot of people who were just like me. They were just like me. They were just like me.

From my years as a boat passenger, I'd picked up what I considered the basics:

1. Keep to the right.
2. Don't get too close to other boats.
3. Watch for boats, swimmers, debris and other objects in the water.
4. Stay seated while the boat is moving.

Plus, I had a rudimentary knowledge of the navigation rules from my years with NASBLA. I had that knowledge in the rules of the road when working on the project to create our new Sport Fish Restoration & Boating Trust Fund. I had that knowledge in the rules of the road when working on the project to create our new Sport Fish Restoration & Boating Trust Fund.

Wealth of knowledge

On the Thursday immediately before Memorial Day Weekend, we were camped in the main office of the Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources. The class did follow much deeper into the workings of the state and safety programs than I had ever known through my casual boating experiences. And, I must admit, I had never given much thought to the types of boats, engines and drives, or how to use a boat.

She provided us with a very thorough, if quickly passed, course. Before I knew it, it was time for the exam. There was some discussion as to whether the test was open book. I'm sure there were the panic in some of our faces because we felt the decision up to us. A few of the non-boaters really flipped through their manuals.

The more experienced boaters confidently left their class. I chose another option. I had heard myself to have my book closed until I've completed an item that others had just been concerned in one quickly class or otherwise had me stumped.

In all, I referred to the manual to find or re-remember. While I'm glad my test, I couldn't wait. I waited until it was done before checking out the results. With a sigh of relief, I saw my score: 99 percent.

Putting knowledge to use

It was a wonderful day. I completed Kentucky Boating Safety education course. I felt great about my accomplishment and looked forward to passing my parents over the holiday weekend. They live on a lake and boating always brings joy to our state.

I was more abundant during my report on the water these two days. And, I made sure my husband, David, and I were one of the few "boat couples" since I had several doubts and been told to use how-

whenever the boat was under way. (Editor's note: For those who don't know, this is the first time I've ever taken a boating safety course. I've never taken a boating safety course before.)

fast the craft would go, it was time to return to the lake. I was sure someone could take a ride.

Despite my new status as a boater, I still don't feel comfortable about actually operating a boat. While I am fine with reading a manual, I am not sure I can actually operate a boat. I am not sure I can actually operate a boat. I am not sure I can actually operate a boat.

I last year my own boating a personal watercraft, and David and I took it for a spin during this year's spring visit. We took our own inflatable PWC to the lake. I loved the engine control layout and my wife and I took off. I took off to keep an eye on her for other boats and not to get too close when crossing waves. After an exhilarating ride my husband might say the words "that's great" since I had several doubts and been told to use how-

NASBLA Editor Kimberly Jenkins recently received an APEX Award of Excellence in Feature Writing for her article "Becoming a Safer Boater" (September-October 2012).

In the realm of recreational boating safety and security, finding ways to improve safety on the water is an ongoing quest.

Recognizing that an informed boater is a smart boater, the Coast Guard continues to pursue federal legislation for a national mandatory boating safety education requirement in the U.S. To experience what boaters around the country encounter in the classroom, the author took a boating safety education course and recounted her experience.

Coast Guard Headquarters begins move into permanent home

July 29 marked the official opening of the new U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters building on the St. Elizabeths west campus. This is the first permanent home for the Coast Guard in its 223-year history.

The Coast Guard relocation to the site signals the end of the first phase in creating a U.S. Department of Homeland Security Consolidated Headquarters campus. "Today, we take a major step forward in making our 'One DHS' vision a

reality," said Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano. "Consolidating our facilities will increase efficiency and communication, while enhancing the department's prevention, response and recovery capabilities."

Coast Guard Headquarters personnel have been making final preparations for the move all summer. It will take three months for the 3,700 Coast Guard personnel and civilian employees to relocate to the new facility.

Office telephone and email contact information remain the same for Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety (CG-BSX) personnel.

The following new address must be used for mail bound to the CG-BSX office:

Commandant (CG-BSX)
ATTN: Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety
U.S. Coast Guard STOP 7501
2703 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue SE
Washington DC 20593-7501 *

BLA ^{NEW} AS

MAJOR JON CORNISH **Maine – Coastal**



Hailing from Topsham, Maine, Major Jon Cornish is an avid boater. Living on a river and owning a camp on a lake, he and his family enjoy boating on a pontoon and an aluminum boat as well as in kayaks and a canoe. He is a participating member of Friends of Winnecook Lake and active in the YMCA.

Cornish graduated from the University of Southern Maine with a degree in criminology. He then joined Maine Marine Patrol in 1985 in the Bucksport area. "Through the years I have taken advantage of many training opportunities and have been fortunate to have enjoyed my 28-year career with Patrol.

Cornish was promoted to major in July 2013. The position includes the state's boating law administrator duties. Cornish was involved with NASBLA in 2009-2010 as a lieutenant working with Major John Fetterman, who was then Maine's coastal BLA. To help him further in his new position, Major Cornish recently attended NASBLA's BLA Training Academy in Kentucky.

Major Cornish views boater education as key to recreational boating safety. "It is common to see boaters recreating along the coast lacking the skills necessary to operate in that environment (wind, current, rough water, hazards and cold water). Many accidents are avoidable," he added.

In looking at his state's boating safety program, Major Cornish is honing in on two areas. "First, we could provide a level of mandatory boater education across the board, but specifically to young people and inexperienced boaters. Second, we could benefit from more outreach programs that act to informally educate the boating public and work to remind them to be prepared before venturing out onto the Maine waters."

SERGEANT FIRST CLASS **KENNETH RYAN**

New Jersey



This October marks Kenneth Ryan's 16th anniversary with the New Jersey State Police. During eight of those years he has been assigned to the Marine Services Bureau. He has been assigned to various stations throughout the state, with concentrations in both the recreational boating safety and homeland security fields.

An avid boater, SFC Ryan became the New Jersey BLA in August of 2013, after acting BLA, Lt. Raymond Jacobs, was promoted to captain and transferred out of the Marine Services Bureau. Prior to assignment in the Marine Services Bureau, he was assigned to general duty road stations in Central New Jersey,

patrolled the New Jersey Turnpike, and was assigned to the Regional Operations and Intelligence Center (ROIC), a 24-hour watch operations center.

SFC Ryan earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in economics from Rowan University and his Master of Public Administration from Seton Hall University. He has authored New Jersey's application to the USCG State Boating Safety Grant Program since 2007, and he currently serves as the Marine Services Bureau Training Officer, overseeing bureau annual certifications, the NJ Marine Law Enforcement Training Course, and the NJ Recreational Boating Safety Certificate Program.

SFC Ryan feels that it is very important to teach vessel operations. "The states and territories have all made a positive impact on educating the boating public in a classroom setting from navigation rules, safety requirements, to PFD wear. However, I see a need to teach the public fundamental operational boating skills also," he added.

He also sees reaching out to schoolchildren about boating safety as an important factor. SFC Ryan explained that the N.J. State Police, Marine Services Bureau has developed a 45-minute Boating Safety Course directed at elementary and middle school students. He said, "I plan to increase courses taught in school districts throughout the state. The initial emphasis will be school districts along the Atlantic Ocean and larger outlying lakes where recreational boating is prominent. The goal is to introduce boating safety at a young age, and build on the basics as they grow in the boating communities."

In addition to his passion for boating safety, SFC Ryan is heavily involved as a board member with the Daniel P. Ryan Foundation, a 501(c)3 organization dedicated to assisting families affected by cancer. The foundation was named in memory of his older brother who passed of leukemia.

GARY OBERMILLER **Ohio**

Gary Obermiller, a veteran ODNR administrator and law enforcement officer, will assume duties as chief of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' Division of Watercraft. Obermiller replaces Rodger Norcross who is retiring after 25 years of service.

"Gary Obermiller is a dedicated public servant who will continue to serve Ohioans and keep the state's waterways safe," said Ohio Department of Natural Resources' (ODNR) Director James Zehringer. "Gary has decades of experience with ODNR and is well-suited to lead one of our most visible and vital divisions."

Norcross has spent his entire career with ODNR. Prior to becoming chief of the division in 2011, he worked within the ODNR Office of Law Enforcement and as a watercraft area supervisor.

"I applaud Rodger Norcross for his excellent leadership and dedication to the department and the ODNR Division of Watercraft," said Zehringer. "I wish Rodger and his family all the best and look forward to seeing him on the water."

Obermiller, a Huron County native, began working as a seasonal employee with ODNR in 1984. Commissioned in 1987, he became a district preserve manager for the ODNR Division of Natural Areas and Preserves in 1995. In 2000, he was promoted to north region preserve manager and in 2004 assumed the role of law enforcement administrator, in addition to his field management duties. In December 2009, Obermiller was named program administrator for the division and assumed management of all field and central support operations. In 2010, he was named chief of the ODNR Office of Law Enforcement. In 2012, he moved to Ohio State Parks where he served as the north region administrator.

Obermiller is a certified Ohio Law Enforcement instructor in a variety of areas including firearms, defensive tactics and basic academy instruction. He has served on a number of statewide law enforcement committees. In 1985,

Obermiller received an associate degree in recreation and wildlife/law enforcement from Hocking College. He was a patrolman and sergeant for the Wakeman Police Department from 1988 to 1992.

HOWARD A. FORBES SR. **Virgin Islands**

Following changes to the organizational structure of the Department of Planning & Natural Resources, Howard A. Forbes Sr. was promoted in May 2013 to serve as director of the Virgin Islands Division of Environmental Enforcement. In this position, he oversees the division's day-to-day operations and serves as the territory's BLA.

Forbes began his law enforcement career as a National Park Service Ranger at the Buck Island Reef National Monument in 1987, where he remained for two years. He then transferred to the Department of Planning and Natural Resources Division of Environmental Enforcement in 1989. He worked as a conservation officer until becoming the enforcement director.

"I bring to this position 24 years of experience along with various training over the years, including Marine Law Enforcement Training, Boating Safety Instructors Course, and Advanced Marine Patrol Officer Course in Yorktown, Va."

According to a news release announcing Forbes' promotion, Forbes has received significant training at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, the U.S. Coast Guard Training Center and the Department of Homeland Security Center for Domestic Preparedness. He is certified with the National Crime Information Network, or NCIC, and is a certified Hazardous Materials Technician.

A boater himself, Forbes sees education and outreach programs as key components in boater safety education. As the Virgin Islands' BLA, he plans to improve enforcement efforts, especially stricter enforcement of the mandatory use of life jackets for those under age 17 as well as more stringent boating under the influence patrols. *

By Rachel Johnson
Communications Director
National Safe Boating Council



Imagine you're planning your next boating safety course and are working to gather resources to share in the course: You go to site A for life jacket information, site B for navigation rules information, and then site C for information about boating under the influence. To make things easier, the National Safe Boating Council has compiled all of this important boating safety information on just one site – the Recreational Boating Safety Instructor Network (www.BoatingInstructorNetwork.com), or the RBS In-Network. The forum is intended to provide products and resources used in both formal and informal boating safety programs.

"Our goal is to give instructors the tools to become better-informed and effective instructors teaching the full myriad of boating safety topics both in the classroom and on the water," said Virgil Chambers, executive director of the National Safe Boating Council. "We believe the site and its networking opportunities will provide leadership and guidance to new and novice instructors who wish to grow in the field of boating safety education and training."

In partnership with Walsh Marine Products, a manufacturer of navigational aids for inland waterways, along with input from boating safety partners, the National Safe Boating Council's RBS In-Network provides a place

RBS

In-Network

provides

clearinghouse

for boating

safety

information

where agencies, organizations and companies can connect with experts to conduct programs to fulfill training needs. The RBS In-Network links instructors to course providers and credentialing opportunities in recreational boating safety professional programs.

"Walsh Marine Products is excited to be a part of this new venture with the NSBC through the Boating Instructor Network," remarked Walsh Marine Products Vice President Ken Ullman. "We feel this opportunity will open new avenues of exposure for our company in a partnership that will grow and expand with the new website."

The RBS In-Network allows professionals to use, download and gather information without registering for the forum. If instructors are looking for more feedback and discussion, a registered users section gives instructors the opportunity to post relevant and timely information, helping to create interaction among the boating community.

Have suggestions? There's a feature on the site that allows users to post comments and suggestions to help improve the RBS In-Network. To learn more about the RBS In-Network and to begin using this valuable resource, visit <http://www.boatinginstructornetwork.com>. ✨



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Naukati students thrilled with boating safety

“In high school, as I struggled to maintain my attendance and grades, he showed me that there's a purpose for me in this world. He gave me a reason to believe in myself and to not give up,” said Naukati teacher Kim Hoover, referring to her high school Personal Social Responsibilities (PSR) class teacher, Mr. Chapin – an engaging educator whose inspiring convictions influenced her life.

Now a teacher herself, Hoover said her mentor taught that for some kids, it's not all about academics; relationships are also important.

“That's my philosophy as well,” Hoover said. “If we build strong relationships with our students, they feel motivation to succeed in school and in life. They don't want to let you down when they know you believe in them.”

Two years ago at the school where she teaches in Naukati, a small community on the west side of Prince of Wales Island, in Alaska, Hoover introduced the first PSR class, teaching responsibility with a curriculum that addressed National Health Standards while kindling motivation and direction in students. The class was so popular that students requested a PSR II class and Hoover decided to offer a curriculum focusing on leadership.

“I wanted to instill a sense of accomplishment in achieving personal goals, to empower students to make a difference, not only in themselves but in the school, Naukati and other communities,” Hoover said.

By Carla Petersen

A school aide and EMS Volunteer, Shelley Guerra, suggested the Kids Don't Float Peer Educator Program. Learning, then teaching, builds leadership qualities and water safety is important to any island community. Water safety courses were not currently being offered in Naukati School and this program provided a way for students to learn as well as share the knowledge. Hoover confirmed that the course looked like a good fit and invited Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, Office of Boating Safety, Education Specialist Kelli Toth to Naukati.

Toth spent two full days in Naukati teaching the Kids Don't Float curriculum on life jacket law and use and cold-water survival. Students wrote their own lesson plans and were taught presentation and delivery for instruction to younger children. One student, Brandon Richter, also an EMT/1 with the Naukati volunteer EMS, built a life jacket “loaner board” with donations from local residents. Toth, Richter and local EMTs installed the board at the Naukati dock, filling the station with variously sized life jackets supplied by the Office of Boating Safety.

“They are an amazing group of kids,” Toth said, “and it has been a real pleasure working with them.”

Toth asserts with enthusiasm that the Peer Educator Program not only teaches crucially important water safety knowledge but “offers a much deeper learning experience and gives kids a chance to be leaders by educating others.” Loaner boards, which can be built in any shape or style from available materials give students a chance to reach out to their community and presents an ongoing project for future students to maintain and update the station.

According to the DNR website, www.alaskaboatingsafety.org, drowning is the second leading cause of accidental death for children in Alaska. In a mere 14 years from 1980 to 1994, 100 children under age 14 died in boating accidents. In 1996 the Kids Don't Float concept originated in Homer where, through cooperation of several institutions, 15 life

jacket loaner stations were established in communities around Kachemak Bay. The program grew quickly so that currently at least 700 loaner boards are positioned in communities around Alaska (2,000 in U.S.), hosted by different agencies, organizations and individuals.



A recent Personal Social Responsibilities class receives the Alaska Office of Boating Safety's 2012 Gold Award for excelling in the Kids Don't Float Peer Educator Program: Caitlyn Hammond (from left), Anthony Howell, teacher Kimberly Hoover, Kevin Walton and Cody Russell. Brandon Richter and Felysha Williams not pictured.

In January, Hoover was delighted to learn that her previous year's Personal Social Responsibilities class would receive the Alaska Office of Boating Safety's 2012 Gold Award by excelling in the Kids Don't Float Peer Educator Program. Students Brandon Richter, Kevin Walton, Felysha Williams, Cody Russell, Anthony Howell and Caitlyn Hammond expressed pride and satisfaction concerning the achievement and revealed an excellent comprehension of water safety knowledge.

Statewide, nine other high schools also earned silver and bronze awards from the Alaska Office of Boating Safety for their accomplishments in the program.



Brandon Richter and Keven Walton man a water safety booth at the Forest Service-sponsored Kid's Fishing Day.

"Wearing a life jacket is so important because in an emergency, whether you can swim or not, cold water can restrict your breathing and a life jacket will keep you afloat," Hammond said.

Howell agreed, "It is really important that everyone study up on cold-water survival, wear a life jacket and follow the boating regulations."

Naukati students expressed distinct satisfaction with their weeklong visit to the school in Port Alexander on nearby Baranof Island where they taught water safety and made friends with whom they continue to correspond. To demonstrate cold-water immersion techniques, Walton and Richter courageously jumped into the frigid saltwater off the Port Alexander dock (with life jackets on) in a chilly episode Walton described as "awesome and fun."

Walton related that entering the cold water was shocking and that breathing was somewhat difficult at first. The two intrepid jumpers counted backward from five to work on breathing control, adjusted their life jackets and blew whistles, then assumed the proper position for retaining body heat. Walton's partner in crime, Richter, was not available for comment but one assumes he was similarly exhilarated by the experience.

At the Education Day/Science Fair held in Thorne Bay, the Naukati students hosted tutorials on life jacket types and purposes and cold-water survival in 15-minute rotations for students from other SISD schools. Students were also challenged by activities such as a relay race where they ran to a bucket of ice water, immersed their hands for 30 seconds, then ran to their life jackets and put them on, struggling with frigid fingers to properly adjust and tighten them in a simulation of a cold-water emergency situation.

At the Forest Service's annual Kid's Fishing Day event at the Klawock River Hatchery, two of the Naukati students, Walton and Richter ran a booth conducting fun-filled activities with children from all over the island on water and boating safety, partnering with USFS Law Enforcement Officer Chris Sakraida of the Craig Ranger



Peer educators don life jackets in a demonstration for students.

District to distribute life jackets to children attending the booth.

As a Personal Social Responsibility class curriculum, the Kids Don't Float Peer Educator Program did work out as a great fit according to students Howell and Russell who said, "the leadership gained through doing that program and leading other students gave us more confidence so that this year we are the trainers; teaching teamwork, leadership, finding self-worth, confidence and personal and social responsibility to the younger students."

The award which Naukati School has received is called a perpetual plaque, designed with extra space for future awards to be added. *



Peer Extraordinaire Brandon Richter poses with Naukati's new life jacket loaner station.

From Capital City Weekly [March 13, 2013]. Reprinted with permission.



Even when the deflated economy forced many to find new ways to recreate, recreational boaters still found their way to the water. The thousands of miles of waterways in California make it possible for any type of boating imaginable, including intense whitewater rafting with Class V rapids, leisure kayaking on peaceful lakes, ocean jet-skiing, and motor boating everywhere in between. So the question begs, how do we educate such a uniquely different group of people? And the answer to that question is in a manner that is as uniquely multi-faceted as the different types of boating, including traditional marketing, innovative marketing and creating social responsibility among boaters.

Creating a culture of boaters who always wear their life jackets while boating is not something that happens overnight. Even if life jacket wear were mandatory while boating, would boaters comply? Boating statistics repeatedly show that eight out of 10 drownings could have been prevented had the boater been

Life Jackets

How to Encourage All Boaters to Get On Board

*By Melissa Miranda
Boating Education and Outreach Coordinator
California State Parks Division
of Boating and Waterways*

wearing a life jacket. If you compare life jackets and boats to seatbelts and cars, you still hear of unfortunate accidents where a driver's or passenger's life could have potentially been saved if only they had been wearing their seatbelt.

So where do we even start? Messages are targeted to boaters through the more obvious, traditional media markets like radio and television for starters. But to really get in boaters' heads, California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW) goes online into their virtual world and strategically places ads on websites that boaters are known to check before heading out on the water such as weather websites. We also engage in conversations through blogs and social media sites to dig deep into boaters' minds to instill a safety mindset. We direct boaters to our website www.BoatResponsibly.com for a plethora of information on safe boating.



Using creative and innovative marketing ideas, we have placed safety messages on gas pump toppers close to waterways, so when boaters are filling up their boats, that message is right there. Wrapped icebox machines and posters at marinas ensure safety messages are seen by boaters before they head out on the water. Then, just when boaters are starting to get the message, we get up close and personal through onsite interaction and drive the life jacket message home! Through all of these avenues, our goal is to enact a sense of personal and social responsibility. So now we have armed boaters with the knowledge, but what about the resources?

Boating educators in California have executed proven successful campaigns that create a call to action with boaters. For example, California pioneered the national Wear It! effort at the state level on the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to introduce boaters to the newer, more comfortable inflatable life jackets. Voluntary life jacket wear rates rose from 6.0% at the inception of the campaign in 2006 to an impressive 12.4% in 2011 at the conclusion of the five-year study. The Wear It! campaign provides a way for educators to hold boaters personally and socially

responsible for being safe on the waterways through the Wear It! Pledge. Boaters are asked to pledge to always wear their life jacket while boating, to require that everyone on board also wears a life jacket, and to spread the word about the importance of wearing a life jacket while boating.

This year, the Wear It California! Campaign is continuing the life jacket message to boaters at two high-accident lakes in Southern California. In fact, one fortunate boater's life was saved as a direct result of the Wear It California! Campaign, further proving the Wear It! message does work!

It was a sunny, calm weekend on the water and the Wear It California! Crew was distributing inflatable life jackets to boaters who took the Wear It! Pledge. An angler happened about the booth, pledged to always wear his life jacket while boating, and headed out on the water. Not long after dropping his line in the water, a huge wake overcame the tiny, inflatable tube of this angler. Suddenly, he found himself underwater with his waders filling up with water. As he began to sink further into the darkness, he remembered that he had kept his promise to the Wear It! Pledge and was wearing his life jacket. He pulled the cord, the life jacket inflated

and he floated to the surface. He credits the efforts of the Wear It California! Campaign for saving his life and now understands the importance of always wearing his life jacket while boating!

In addition to the Wear It California! Campaign, DBW carries out several additional campaigns in which boaters have an opportunity to receive a life jacket. Boaters are offered the opportunity once a year around Memorial Day to trade in their old, unserviceable or outgrown life jackets for new, properly fitted Coast Guard-approved life jackets. If boaters still can't get their hands on a life jacket, they can borrow life jackets at any of the more than 70 life jacket loan stations throughout the state, which can be found on www.WearItCalifornia.com.

It is the boater's responsibility to know boating laws and regulations before heading out on the water, but as boating educators, it is our duty to provide the resources for boaters to learn and take action. We will continue searching for new and innovative ways to reach boaters with the hope that every boater has the education and resources to navigate safely to shore. *

Self-inflating life jackets provide compact, comfortable answers to excuses for PFD haters

WHAT'S YOUR LIFE WORTH?



By Eric Fowler
Regional Editor
Nebraska Game and
Parks Commission



Nationally, about three-fourths of all people who die in boating accidents die from drowning. Of those, 85 to 90 percent likely would have lived had they simply been wearing a life jacket. Last year, five of the eight people who died in Nebraska boating accidents drowned. None of the drowning victims was wearing a life jacket.

It's a safe bet that none of those victims planned on drowning. That's why Herb Angell, the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission's top boating safety officer, recommends all boaters wear a life jacket while on the water even if regulations don't require them to (although a boat must carry one life jacket per person onboard, only children age 12 and under, water skiers, tubers and jet skiers must wear them while on the water).

And Angell, who's currently vice president of the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators, has heard all of the excuses for not wearing them: "They're too hot. They're too scratchy. They're uncomfortable. They're messing up my tan lines ... Just every excuse you can think of."

The self-inflating life jacket takes those excuses away, Angell said, and is becoming more popular every year. "It's comfortable, it's kind of stylish – I think it's the answer people were looking for," he said.

There are three basic styles of the product starting at around \$80. The most popular is worn over the shoulders like a horse collar, with a strap to hold them around your torso. Another style integrates that same premise into coats or vests designed for hunters and anglers. The third is a belt pack style that is worn around the waist and requires the air bladder to be pulled over your head after it inflates.

The life jackets are inflated by a built-in

CO2 cartridge and can be repacked and recharged. Some inflate automatically when immersed as water dissolves a small tablet and triggers the firing mechanism that releases the gas. Automatic models can also be inflated by pulling a ripcord, which is the only way manual models inflate.

The automatic models, excluding the belt pack, provide one benefit the manual versions do not: they will inflate and turn a person upright who has been knocked unconscious. "We hear people say, 'Well, I'm a good swimmer,' but even Olympic-



Herb Angell is such a believer in self-inflating life jackets that he took a plunge into Lincoln's Holmes Lake with his hands cuffed behind his back and his ankles tied with duct tape to demonstrate their reliability. Two seconds after he hit the water, the device had inflated and brought him back to the surface.

type swimmers would drown if they got knocked unconscious," Angell said.

Good swimmers could also succumb to hypothermia and drown before they can make it to shore if they go overboard in cold water, which can drain your energy in a matter of minutes. The rest of us might not make it to shore on a hot summer day. That's why Angell wants everyone to wear a personal flotation device (PFD), whether it's an inflatable or one of many styles of inherently

buoyant foam vests, while on the water.

While they have only recently gained popularity, self-inflating life jackets were patented in 1928 by a U.S. inventor. They were soon standard issue for U.S. and English airmen, who dubbed them the Mae West, for the resemblance they gave the wearer to the buxom blonde actress.

A 1966 Herter's catalog offered a cigarette package-sized self-inflating life preserver for \$2.97. Cabela's Inc, Nebraska's homegrown outdoor retailer, has carried them for decades and offers

five models in its current branded line. Yet Dan Schoening, Cabela's floatation product specialist, said it wasn't until the U.S. Coast Guard approved the auto-inflating models about 15 years ago that sales of the product really took off. "It seemed like customers were hesitant to buy a life jacket that required them to manually inflate it with the pull of a cord if they were in the water," said Schoening.

Self-inflating life jacket sales have really taken off in the last three years, something Schoening attributes to the visibility of the product, especially among professional anglers and others wearing them on TV.

Self-inflating life jackets are only approved for boaters age 16 and older, and they are not recommended for tubing, kayaking, jet skiing, water skiing or other cases where the chances of getting wet are good, or for people who can't swim.

But Angell is happy to see more boaters wearing them. "It's great for fishing or for just cruising around," he said. "Sometimes you even forget you have it on. But they work and you can bet your life that they'll keep you afloat."

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From NEBRASKAland Magazine [May 2013].
Reprinted with permission of the Nebraska
Game and Parks Commission.

And the Boatsey goes to...



Introducing Cpl. Mike Gladhart, the 2013 Boating Safety Educator of the Year!

From building a PWC simulator to starting a popular PFD exchange program to teaching thousands of Idahoans boating safety, Cpl. Gladhart has always gone above and beyond to make education a top priority.



And congratulations to the regional finalists!

VALERIE COX, Ohio, NABA – Both Ohio boaters and instructors have benefited from Valerie's passion for boating education, a passion that extends from powerboats to paddlesports.

HENRY CESPEDES, Florida, SSBLAA – Not only is Henry committed to making boating education available in Spanish, he dedicated 22 of his Saturdays to teaching boating safety last year.

Better Courses = Safer Boaters



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BOATERexam.com features tons of dynamic content, including hundreds of interactive and narrated animations. That means students aren't just reading, they're listening, watching and engaging, which also means learning is more fun. (*Is it any wonder our students score so high?*) It's just another way we put students first.

Other ways we're putting students first? Visit: <http://www.freshaireducators.com/courses/boating/>

Together with NASBLA, we founded the Boating Safety Educator of the Year (*the Boatsey*) to recognize boating professionals and volunteers who have made our lives safer through their outstanding commitment to boating safety education.

To find out more, and see the 2013 nominees, visit: www.BOATERexam.com/award





National Boating Educator of the Year

Corporal Mike Gladhart Idaho

During the 54th annual conference of the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators, Idahoans were proud to congratulate one of their state's deputies on being named the National Boating Educator of the Year. Corporal Mike Gladhart began his law enforcement career in 2002 and has been working for the Clearwater County Sheriff's Office as a marine deputy for 11 years. He was promoted to Corporal in 2006 and currently serves as the marine supervisor for that county. Cpl. Gladhart has played a key role in developing, maintaining and overseeing the marine patrol division of the county's marine program including the dive/rescue team.

A dedicated officer, Cpl. Gladhart spends over 500 hours a year on marine patrols, averaging over 1,000 boat safety inspections as well as enforcing alcohol violations, assisting with tows of disabled boaters and investigating boat accidents. He is also in charge of search and rescue for those boaters who find themselves in trouble. In 2012 Cpl. Gladhart was named the Idaho Marine Officer of the Year.

Boating education is a top priority for Cpl. Gladhart, and he has a strong passion for teaching boating education and water safety. Every year he teaches hundreds of elementary school children about the importance of wearing life jackets. He also teaches the Paddle

Sports America class to the seventh grade and the "Boat Idaho" state boating safety course to the graduating senior class each year. Cpl. Gladhart believes that by taking a proactive approach and teaching our children and young adults we can prevent future tragedies. When Cpl. Gladhart is not teaching in the schools, he is very active teaching in the adult community. In the past five years, he has taught the Boat Idaho course to nearly 600 teenagers and adults.

In 2006, Cpl. Gladhart designed and built a personal watercraft (PWC) simulator for the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation Boating Program. Used for educational outreach events all over the state, this simulator helps reinforce the importance of life jacket wear for children. In 2009 he started a life jacket exchange program for children in grades kindergarten through sixth. He raised money through donations and purchased 200 life jackets that were given to children in exchange for their old life jackets. This program has been very successful and continues to grow each year.

As a result of his efforts, Cpl. Gladhart has received the state Boating Educator of the Year Award for 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 from the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation. He also received an Award of Merit in recognition for outstanding efforts,

accomplishments and contributions to water safety from the National Water Safety Congress in 2010. Considering his extensive work in the field of boat safety education, Cpl. Gladhart was appointed to serve as one of 15 members on the NASBLA Education Standards Panel in 2011.

Cpl. Gladhart's area of responsibility is primarily Dworshak Reservoir and the Clearwater River. Together these two bodies of water bring in thousands of anglers from all over Idaho as well as neighboring states, many of which are unfamiliar with local river conditions. During periods of low water Cpl. Gladhart spends most of the fall and spring rescuing boaters, some of which have found themselves in life-threatening situations.

A POST-certified instructor who currently teaches at the annual Idaho Marine Law Enforcement Academy, Cpl. Gladhart was instrumental in the development of the PWC Rescue Class. This training has been in place for many years in Idaho and is an important course for marine law enforcement officers. In addition, he helped manufacture a PWC rescue sled that is used for river rescues. Cpl. Gladhart's willingness to step in and help with every aspect of training has made him a vital part of the state's marine law enforcement training program.

Regional Boating Educators of the Year

Northern Region Boating Educator of the Year



Valerie Cox Ohio

Officer Valerie Cox is passionate about educating boaters.

Friendly by nature, she connects easily with people and maintains a positive working rapport with staff, volunteers, other state organizations and partners.

A dedicated officer with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources - Division of Watercraft, she currently serves as the boating education coordinator and is responsible for the coordination of numerous programs and projects that ultimately benefits the boaters of Ohio. She is a leader in training for both classroom and skill development courses. At the end of 2012, she was awarded the Division of Watercraft's Administrator of the Year Award for her extraordinary efforts.

Officer Cox is tasked with the upkeep of Ohio's mandatory boater education program – a complex assignment that requires vigilant oversight to maintain its integrity. Coordinating many aspects of Ohio's mandatory boater education program, she is responsible for the maintenance and inventory of all course materials; trains and certifies new instructors each year; provides annual updates to over 180 instructors; and actively teaches the classroom course to boaters each year. Many of her students acknowledge Officer Cox's ability to make the course fun.

In 2011 and 2012, Officer Cox developed a lesson plan and course materials for

the Division's new Power Boating Basics course. In June 2012, watercraft officers began teaching this course, and boaters responded with positive reviews.

Officer Cox is an instructor trainer for the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy - Instructor Course. Through her leadership, she was able to jump-start instructor training for the Division, which had been idle for several years. Officer Cox is also working to transform the OBEC instructor trainer course.

Cox is an American Canoe Association canoe and kayak instructor and is working toward becoming an instructor trainer in canoeing. She coordinates instruction at the Ohio State Fair kayak pond. Each year, approximately 3,500 participants experience kayaking at the state fair, many for the first time.

Southern Region Boating Educator of the Year



Henry Cespedes Florida

A dedicated U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary boating safety instructor for the recreational boating

public in Miami-Dade County for over 15 years, Henry Cespedes is making a difference. His consistent and innovative contributions have worked to make boaters safer in one of the largest boating areas in the United States.

In South Florida, where many boaters (and potential students) speak Spanish as their first language, there is a significant need for Spanish language boating safety instructors. To fulfill this need in his community, Cespedes has presented boating safety courses in Spanish for several years, creating an effective learning environment.

His efforts in encouraging boaters to attend Auxiliary boating safety classes resulted in 628 students in various boating safety classes in the last year alone. Cespedes' efforts in recruiting students resulted in 13 single-day "About Boating Safety" classes, five single-day "Navegando America" courses in Spanish, three piloting courses in English, and one Piloting class in Spanish.

As part of his effort, Cespedes dedicated 22 of his Saturdays – almost half of the Saturdays in the year – to teaching safe boating. His typical boating safety Saturday starts at 6:30 a.m. so he can prepare the venue for the students, and ends at 5:30 p.m., when graduates leave with their USCG Auxiliary Boating Course card in hand. After a long day, he still finds time to forward the student data to the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission so students can receive their Florida Boating Safety Education ID Card within two weeks.

The area of Florida Henry works in is a high activity area for boating. Given the challenges of attracting students to a classroom boating safety course, especially when there are many other activities for potential students in Miami, it is particularly impressive that he finds ways to get students into classrooms.

Generously sponsored by BoaterExam.com, the Boating Educator of the Year program was launched by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators in 2011 to recognize those who go above to engage students and boaters, raise awareness, and make boating education initiatives relevant, thorough and exciting.

State Boating Educators of the Year



Cassandra Smith
Arizona

Cassandra Smith, Arizona Game and Fish's exceptional college intern, works in the boating education branch. Smith's leadership and organizational skills have been invaluable to the boating program.

An exemplary classroom instructor and presenter, Smith routinely conducts boating safety education classroom courses, clinics, and on-the-water and shore-side public outreach events across the state of Arizona. From coordinating volunteers for events to engaging the public daily or dealing with boating law violations, she has that special talent to effectively communicate in an open and concise manner while leading by example.

Smith frequently receives compliments from those with whom she works and the public she serves, especially when helping a young student comprehend the joys of paddling. Approachable, warm, and friendly, she has an impressive knowledge base of boating safety – ranging from boating law violations to all of the canoeing and kayaking paddle strokes. To top it off, she accomplishes all this while maintaining a challenging and rigorous school schedule.



Brian Dulgar
California

Brian Dulgar, who grew up boating and water skiing, has been passionate about boating his whole life. In high school, his passion for water skiing introduced Dulgar to the American Water Ski Association and competitive water skiing. His love for the sport brought him to Sacramento State College, where he graduated with a bachelor of arts in business marketing.

A part of the Sacramento State Aquatic Center since 1986, Dulgar has taught and supported power boating, sailing, windsurfing, rowing, and paddlesports. He became the Center Director in 1998. Dulgar helped build the Center's popular wakeboard/water ski programs. He has served on the California Department of Boating and Waterways Boating and Safety Advisory Committee and is an American Water Ski Association (AWSA) Driver and AWSA national competitor.

Dulgar recently implemented an indoor rowing program for local middle and high schools to augment their physical education curriculum and expose more youth to boating. He has promoted national events and worked many public events promoting boating safety to over 13,000 youth and adults in 2012. Under his directorship, the aquatic center has grown to offer safe boating classes to over 4,600 students each year.



Senior Ranger
Scott Rist
Colorado

Senior Ranger Scott Rist simply loves to pass along his boating knowledge. He is always the first to jump in and teach someone how to love boating safely.

Enthusiastic about teaching kids about boating safety, Ranger Rist serves as the agency's youth boating safety instructor. In eight years of teaching boating safety classes, he has taught well over 200 students. He has gone to several different schools and programs to promote boating safety, putting at least 1500 life jackets on school-age children around the Crawford Complex area. After determining the correct size life jacket for each child, he teaches kids how to wear life jackets properly. He also teaches them about hypothermia and water safety.

Ranger Rist is also a lead instructor for Colorado Parks and Wildlife's seasonal boat training academy. Ranger Rist developed a training course for seasonal rangers while at Ridgway State Park. The course is being used in two different boat training courses in the Division. He also helps in two different regions' boat training academies each year and serves as an American Canoe Association instructor.



Mark Chanski Connecticut

Having worked for the Department of Environmental Protection Boating Division for nearly seven years assisting the education coordinator, Mark Chanski's approach to boating safety is refreshing and well received by boaters. To reach more boaters, he initiated a Facebook page (BoatingInConnecticut), resulting in the Boating Division being the first in the agency granted the privilege to use this social media. Since then he has faithfully kept it updated and responsive to the growing number of viewers.

In addition to responsibilities for boating classes, Chanski runs the Division's boating safety boat, Prudence. He also initiated a sponsorship program he named BOATS: Because Our Acquaintances Think Safety. Through this outreach program, Chanski provides boaters with promotional giveaways and rebates from Connecticut sponsors in return for the time that they spend listening to the Pru-Crew talk about boating safety issues. This encourages boaters to engage in longer conversations.

Chanski developed the rebate campaign "Get it on! We'll take it off!". Upon purchase of a new inflatable life jacket and pledge to wear it, the boater receives a rebate for \$35. Since the boater still must make an investment, this adds value to the life jacket and the boater is more likely to wear it.



Clifford Inn Hawaii

Clifford Inn is responsible for all boating education outreach for the state of Hawaii, which includes six islands. He works well with the USCG Auxiliary and Power Squadrons and is continually developing new strategies to promote safe boating. Inn recently designed new signage that will be used on Kaanapali Beach, Maui, to delineate the ingress/egress corridors and completed an awareness campaign regarding dive flags and the importance of having a look out onboard.

Inn is very professional when dealing with the general public and other governmental agencies. He has become a go-to guy for the state's boating law administrator, willingly taking on any task without question, even if it is outside his area of responsibility. Inn is very knowledgeable about multimedia concepts and has the ability to design and implement various outreach efforts. He shared his ideas with our colleagues from America Samoa and provided them with materials to promote their boating safety program.

Inn was instrumental in drafting and monitoring Hawaii's new mandatory boating education requirement through the administrative rule-making process. The mandatory education rule was signed by the Governor on October 10, 2012, and took effect on November 10, 2012. Hawaii now has a mandatory boating education requirement that meets NASBLA standards.



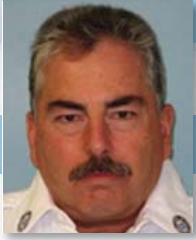
Zac Campbell Kentucky

Zac Campbell became the boating education coordinator for the Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources in November 2011. In that short time, he has already garnered awards for his efforts to improve recreational boating safety. Among these are first place in the 2012 International Boating & Water Safety Summit's media contest for his audio public service announcement (PSA) "Olympic Swimmer" and the 2012 AAF-ADDY Award for his radio PSA encouraging the wearing of life jackets.

Campbell has visited more than half of Kentucky's marinas. During the visits he met with the marina owner, distributed safety materials and discussed ways to work together to make Kentucky waterways safer. He also conducted over 100 vessel safety equipment inspections at Kentucky marinas and promoted Kentucky's NASBLA-approved online and in-person boater education course options.

In addition to instructing several boater education classes, Campbell created a youth life jacket loaner program using life jackets donated by Boat US. Kentucky patrol vessels are now equipped with at least two youth-sized loaner life jackets. He also worked with Boat Ed to create a specialized online BUI violators course that is mandated by Kentucky statute for everyone convicted of boating under the influence.

(Continued on page 22)



Lieutenant
David Brouillette
Massachusetts

Lieutenant Dave Brouillette is a 21-year veteran of the Massachusetts Environmental Police (M.E.P.) Prior to being promoted to lieutenant, he held the rank of sergeant assigned to the agency's patrol boat "Jessie." He became well aware of the necessity of education to the boating community. As lieutenant, Brouillette supervised nine Environmental Police Officers in parts of the most densely populated areas of the state. Due to budgetary issues, he is the supervisor for two regional areas of the state. This added workload has not deterred him from fulfilling the boating education needs in his area.

Lt. Brouillette organizes, oversees and instructs numerous M.E.P.-sponsored boating safety classes. He took on a new task of setting up a public information booth at the famous Topsfield Fair. He personally set up the booth by constructing a room that resembled a game warden lodge area.

Once set up, he oversaw the scheduling of officers to staff the booth for the duration of the fair. In the booth the public could ask questions about boating requirements in Massachusetts and learn of free upcoming M.E.P. classes to be held throughout the state. Viewed by thousands of people, the booth was given an award by the fairgrounds as one of the best. Lt. Brouillette also ensures the officers under his watch set up and instruct boating safety classes as needed.



Trooper
Ted Albrecht
Michigan

Marine Deputy Ted Albrecht began serving the Kent County Sheriff's Office as a part-time marine deputy in 1995 and has served as an instructor in boater safety since 1996. His background includes a bachelor's degree in biology and physical education from Hope College and a master's degree in administration from Michigan State University. Marine Deputy Albrecht taught in the Grand Rapids Public School system from 1973 until 2009.

Upon retiring from his teaching position, Albrecht began working with Michigan's boating law administrator to improve the state's boater safety education program. Marine Deputy Albrecht has consistently taken less experienced marine deputies under his tutelage and guided them in their job performance – while striving to teach them that the best way to keep the waterways safe is through a first-class education program.

In 2012 Marine Deputy Albrecht taught 1,868 boater safety students and conducted 69 boater safety courses. These courses were completed in only 10 months as Marine Deputy Albrecht was stricken with leukemia during February, March and part of April. Marine Deputy Albrecht is instrumental in the state's safety education program working with school systems, allowing the program to be taught in the schools.



Trooper
David R. Nelson
Missouri

A veteran of the U.S. Army, Trooper David Nelson is well known for his boater safety education efforts. He delivers programs throughout the year to certify new boaters, including going into schools and local businesses to give programs on water safety and visiting with Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and Cub Scouts to discuss boating safety. Additionally, Trooper Nelson has been called on several times by the rangers at Wappapello State Park to give impromptu boating safety programs to large groups of campers.

Covering Lake Wappapello, Black River, St. Francis River, the Mississippi River, Trooper David Nelson has helped the Coast Guard and other authorities in Tennessee and Arkansas and he serves as the agency's liaison with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in southeast Missouri. The senior marine officer in Troop E, he mentors other marine troopers and is recognized around the troop as the person to ask regarding water issues.

Trooper Nelson served on the committee that helped create the current Missouri safety education program and test. He has also recorded television and radio public service announcements and given interviews to newspaper, radio and television outlets on boating safety.

Having helped educate many thousands of people in Southeast Missouri, Trooper Nelson has touched many lives with his public service and enforcement the past 17 years.



Leroy Bentley Oregon

Leroy Bentley became a volunteer instructor for the Oregon State Marine Board on July 25, 2002, when the agency was gearing up to begin phasing in the state's mandatory boater education program. Bentley began teaching Boat Oregon – A Course on Responsible Boating in August 2002 and continues teaching to this day.

Respected by all of his students, Bentley is dedicated to teaching boating safety. He is detailed, thorough and neat in his paperwork, and his coursework is well organized and well delivered. From August 2002 through December 2012, Bentley taught 2,716 students in 14 cities throughout Oregon – that is approximately 281 students per year. Bentley taught 22 percent of the students who have completed a classroom course in that time period. The next highest percentage of students taught by an instructor is five percent.

Bentley has received the Oregon Instructor of the Year Award numerous times for his tireless work and excellent results. He also volunteers at the annual Portland Boat Show, boating safety events, and the Marine Board, proving to be a valued resource because of his knowledge, strengths, and commitment to a task. This type of commitment, customer service and extra effort has given Bentley a well-deserved reputation as a preeminent and effective volunteer instructor for the Marine Board.



Dewayne Williams Tennessee

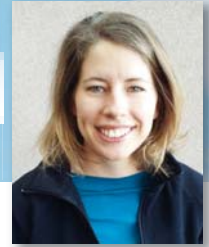
Dewayne Williams is a part-time boating officer for the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency in District 41 around the Knoxville, Tennessee area. This area consistently has the most registered boats than any other county in the state – more than 16,000 boats in Knox County alone – resulting in a large boater education gap to be filled.

Williams helped bridge this gap by setting up boating safety classes at Gander Mountain in Knoxville once a month in January through March and September through December 2012. In April through August he taught two classes a month. Some of his classes contained more than 100 students. His classes were so popular with the youth in the area that chairs and state-of-the-art audio/visual equipment were bought and installed in the archery area of the store. In Knox County in 2012, nearly 900 students were certified – nearly 600 by Officer Williams. Not only does Williams teach classes, but he also talks about boating safety at four local schools and sets up a display for a countywide safety day. He took his patrol boat to Wal-Mart on various occasions to provide an all-day boating safety display for customers.

Officer Williams is continuing these efforts in 2013, and has increased his classes to once a week in May through August – four classes a month! Williams is a tremendous asset to TWRA and the boating community in and around Knoxville. He takes pride in wearing a TWRA uniform and represents the Agency well wherever he goes, in whatever capacity he is working in. He has excellent communication and people skills and treats people honestly and fairly.



John Good



Stephanie Borys Utah

John Good and Stephanie Borys are the behind-the-scenes educators providing top quality, award-winning publications, displays and exhibits for Utah's boaters. Though they are silent educators, their work is viewed by thousands of Utah boaters annually.

Over the years, Good and Borys have jointly designed, developed and produced dozens of safety and educational products to share safe boating messages with Utah boaters. With their knowledge and skill, they bring ordinary boating safety messages to life with meaningful graphics, photos and text.

At the 2012 International Boating and Water Safety Summit, the Utah State Parks and Recreation Boating Program received five awards for boating education and outreach items, all of which Good and Borys designed. These included an "Educated Boater on Board" license plate holder, which is given to boaters who pass a boating education course; a detailed boat inspection card for boaters to complete their own inspection before getting underway; a "Wear It Utah" mouse pad promoting online boater education courses; a laminated card describing common navigational buoys and boating laws; and seven banner stands for use at boat shows and safety fairs that depict seven different aspects of boating, including education, BUI, carbon monoxide, rules of the road, environmental conditions, safety equipment, and boating in Utah.

(Continued on page 24)

Other projects include a “Don’t End Up On The Rocks” poster reminding boaters not to drink and boat, which is posted at state liquor stores, boating parks and marine dealers and a “Proper Display of Bow Numbers” poster which is displayed at DMV offices, boating parks and marine dealers.



Melinda Harman **Virginia**

Melinda (Mendy) Harman is a volunteer boating safety instructor with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and a state instructor for the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. She is located in a very rural area of Virginia, where not everyone has access to the Internet, making the classroom courses she provides essential to many boaters in her area. Harman frequently travels across several counties to fill the need and is always willing to help. She has successfully formed partnerships with several facilities to utilize their classroom for boating safety courses.

Harman assists with instruction of the NASBLA-approved Virginia State Boating Safety course at the Claytor Lake Adventure Center Boy Scout

Camp, where they have trained thousands of teenagers. In addition, she spends some of her summer at a marina on Claytor Lake assisting with the boat rental program and conducting the dockside safety checklist for boat rental operators, helping to ensure they have the knowledge they need for a safe trip on the water.

Harman has been a state instructor since 2006. During that time, she has participated in 58 activities, logged 508 hours, and certified over 2,400 students. In 2012, she instructed 18 boating safety classes, logging 114 hours and certifying 962 students.



Dan Henderson **Washington**

Dan Henderson has devoted his life to boating, and Washington State Parks is proud that he has been a constant partner of its program for several years. Henderson has contributed to boating safety education as an author, a teacher, a coach and as a member of the Washington State Parks Boating Safety Council of which he has been a member for the last five years.

As a boating instructor, Henderson runs Cascade Paddle Sports that provides boating programs for the cities of Renton and Bellevue. Through these on-the-water programs, Henderson and his staff provide basic through advanced instruction to boaters wanting to explore paddle sports. His safety-based approach teaches these new boaters how to safely enjoy canoeing and kayaking, emphasizing the skills and equipment needed to thrive and survive in Washington’s cold waters.

Henderson’s greatest passion is teaching youth – from the first day novice to members of the U.S. Team – to be safe in and around water. He commits more than 20 hours each week on the water, year round, to help youth learn to paddle, build their skills, and build their strength of character. Since 1988 he has taught thousands of Washingtonians how to safely paddle in recreational kayak touring and canoeing, as well as flat-water sprint racing.

Henderson’s most valuable contributions have been in helping Washington State Parks convene an impressive committee of paddling experts to develop recommendations for a statewide injury prevention plan for human-powered boating. He is a member of the steering committee and an enthusiastic participant. He helped design the case-study based approach the group is using and has acted as a technical advisor throughout the groups work. *

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NASBLA bestows

Black Bear Diner

Did you know that black bears in Nevada are now participating in the Wear It! campaign? Well, at least the one at Black Bear Diner in Sparks, Nevada, is now wearing a life jacket.

Recently, Fred Messmann, deputy director the National Safe Boating Council, went to Black Bear Diner for a bite to eat and noticed their little bear friend was paddling his canoe without a life jacket. Messmann spoke to Miguel



NASBC Deputy Director Fred Messmann presents a NASBLA Public Service Award to Miguel Hernandez, manager of Black Bear Diner.

Hernandez, manager of Black Bear Diner, about the importance of wearing a life jacket when paddling. Miguel welcomed

the idea of putting a life jacket on the bear and a Wear It! decal on the canoe.

Mustang Survival, a valued longtime NASBLA associate member, graciously donated the bear's new survival gear. The restaurant now also has National Safe Boating Council brochures available for people who ask about the bear's new accessory.

In appreciation of their efforts to promote recreational boating safety, Messmann

nominated both the Black Bear Diner and Mustang Survival for NASBLA's Public Safety Award.

Public Service Awards

Bob's No-Wake Zone

For more than four years, Bob May has taken to the air and the Internet on a weekly basis with his recreational boating show, Bob's No-Wake Zone. His persistence in promoting boating safety has earned him a Public Service Award from NASBLA.

Based in Missouri, Bob contacts national subject matter experts to interview on assorted topics.

"He does a great job helping to promote various boating safety programs and is keeping up with what's happening in the boating safety community," said Rachel Johnson, CAE, the communications

director for the National Safe Boating Council.

Recognizing the importance of wearing a life jacket, Bob has interviewed Rachel

In addition, as a member of the Lake of the Ozarks Water Safety Council, he promotes their effort of "Designate a Captain...Think Before you Sink...Wear A Life Jacket" through brochure distribution at boat shows and events he attends each year.

the past couple years about the NSBC's Wear It! campaign. In addition, as a member of the Lake of the Ozarks Water Safety Council, he promotes their effort of "Designate a Captain...Think Before you Sink...Wear A Life Jacket" through brochure distribution at boat shows and events he attends each year.

Earlier this year, Bob reached out directly to NASBLA Law Enforcement Director John Fetterman in a proactive manner to get the boating under the influence message out to listeners before NASBLA's Operation Dry Water campaign got under way.

Bob also makes sure to discuss the importance of boater education and has interviewed water patrol officers, Coast Guard Auxiliaries, Sail & Power Squadron members, and boating safety specialists, among others.

Other topics on his shows include events on the water, water safety, ethanol, insurance, legislation, and new product tests and reviews. *

NASBLA established its Public Service Award in 1985 as a way to positively reinforce safe boating practices, especially in advertising and the media. Nominations can be made by anyone, then must be approved by the Education and Awards committee chairs.

Briefs

Boross becomes new chief of USCG Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety



Capt. F. Thomas Boross has assumed the duties of chief of the U.S. Coast Guard Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety, where he will oversee the Boating Safety Division as well as the Auxiliary Division consisting of over 30,000 Auxiliarists. Personable and quick to learn, Boross has conducted countless search and rescue missions and is well attuned to the safety goals of the recreational boating safety program.

Previously, Capt. Boross had served since June 2010 as executive officer the Aviation Logistics Center (ALC). A career fixed-wing aviator with broad operational and Aeronautical Engineering Officer experience, he fleeted up to the XO position after serving as ALC's Chief Engineer since July 2009. Prior to ALC, Boross served as chief of Aviation Resources in the Office of Aeronautical Engineering at Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington, D.C. from 2006 to 2009.

After graduating from West Virginia University in 1985, Boross worked as an audit staff accountant for Deloitte Haskins & Sells in San Diego, until accepting the Chief Financial Officer position for Trident Plastics Inc. in Vista, Calif., in May 1987. Wanting to fly for his country, Boross left Trident Plastics to report to U.S. Navy Aviation Officer Candidate School in May 1989. He transferred from the Navy into the Coast Guard via the Direct Commission Aviator program in January 1991.

Capt. Boross is an Airline Transport Pilot rated aviator, having amassed over 4,400 mishap-free flight hours, and is designated as CG Aviator #2949, and a Life Member of the Pterodactyl Association. He is also a licensed Certified Public Accountant and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from West Virginia University and a Master of Public Administration degree from Old Dominion University. His military awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, two Coast Guard Commendation Medals, the Coast Guard Achievement Medal, Volunteer Service Medal, and numerous other personal and unit awards.

Coast Guard terminates certain distress radio guards

Beginning Aug. 1, 2013, the U.S. Coast Guard terminated its radio guard of the international voice distress, safety and calling frequency 2182 kHz and the international digital selective calling distress and safety frequency 2187.5 kHz. Additionally, marine information and

weather broadcasts transmitted on 2670 kHz have been terminated. The Coast Guard will continue to maintain a continuous watch on VHF-FM channel 16 (156.8 MHz) and on existing voice and DSC frequencies in the 4/6/8/12 MHz bands.

AMI releases electrical safety manual for marinas

The Association of Marina Industries has released a new manual for marinas: *Best Management Practices for Marina Electrical Safety*.

The manual is designed to give marina staff an overview of common marina electrical components, potential hazards and how to identify and correct them, and tools that every facility should have onsite. It also offers suggestions about how to work with customers to ensure their boats are safe.

Drafted with advice and information from John Adey at the American Boat and Yacht Council; Chris Dolan of Eaton Marina Power and Lighting; and Mark Stafford at Marinas International and Capt. John McDevitt, the manual includes photographs for the easy identification of problems and common testing equipment and a checklist to encourage the regular assessment of electrical systems.

The concept for the manual came after last summer's electric shock drownings prompted proposed legislation in Kentucky and West Virginia that could have severely affected the way marinas installed and monitored their electric

systems. One bill would have required all marinas to replace their current systems to meet the latest codes.

"Marinas can keep their facilities safe by regularly monitoring the existing electrical system and knowing what to look for in potential dangers," manual coordinator Wendy Larimer said. "New regulation is not the answer to prevent the tragedy of electric shock."

The manual is available at no cost to AMI and ABYC members and for \$20 to non-members. Go to www.marinaassociation.org/publications to order.

National Safe Boating Council announces next executive director



Rachel Johnson, CAE has been selected by the National Safe Boating Council (NSBC) board as the next executive director of the organization, following current Executive Director Virgil Chambers' announced retirement on September 30, 2013.

"We are honored to have Rachel as our next executive director," said NSBC Chair Joyce Shaw. "Her ability to build partnerships and implement innovative programs has been instrumental in promoting recreational boating safety. We look forward to further growing the organization under her leadership."

As the executive director, Johnson will serve as the technical content advisor in direct support of the Council's education, training and outreach programs. She is directly responsible for the planning and development of the national boating safety awareness campaign conducted by the Council and administrated by the U.S. Coast Guard. Johnson will also serve as a representative of the Council to national

and international organizations. She will begin her new role on October 1, 2013.

"I have a passion for boating and water safety, and it's exciting to continue the Council's mission of safer boating through education, outreach and training," said Johnson. "Virgil has made many contributions to the Council and boating community, and I'm honored to have been selected as the next executive director following such an inspirational leader."

Woman rewarded for boat rescue



In August, Sarah E. Gillette of Round Island, N.Y. received NASBLA's Award of Commendation and State Parks' Recreational Boating Life Saving Award from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation's Marine Services Bureau, Thousand Island Region and State Park Police.

The awards were presented in recognition of a rescue Gillette, 65, made earlier this year.

On June 2, Gillette, a summer resident of Round Island and lifelong boater, was on the phone when she heard a man yelling for help. While her husband, Paul, and a neighbor headed out in one boat, Mrs. Gillette jumped into a smaller boat to look for the person in trouble. She spotted him in the water not far from shore.

Terence J. Brennan, 53, had been knocked into the water when a wave hit his 17-foot boat off the shore of Round Island. He was not wearing a life jacket.

Using her boat's platform and swim ladder, Gillette pulled the barely conscious Brennan to safety. Back on shore, neighbors wrapped Brennan in blankets and the Clayton Fireboat administered medical treatment.

"We are so thankful to Mrs. Gillette for her admirable quick-thinking when presented with this emergency," said State Parks Commissioner Rose Harvey. "I offer my congratulations as she earns much-deserved recognition for her noble actions, as well as her knowledge and practice of safe navigation."

The National Award of Commendation is given in recognition of persons who have exhibited heroism and faced risks to their own lives in saving another person involved in a recreation boating incident. Since its inception in 2008, it has been awarded six times to New York State boaters.

The New York State Parks Recreational Boating Life Saving Award recognizes the ultimate boating Good Samaritan who comes to the aid of another boater in life-threatening distress and successfully rescues them.

To nominate someone for NASBLA's Award of Commendation, visit www.nasbla.org/nominate.

Kids Don't Float school program reaches 100,000 participants



Alaska's award-winning safety program for schoolchildren, Kids Don't Float, reached a milestone on Sept. 9 when it surpassed the 100,000-attendee mark with a class at Chugiak Elementary School.

Kids Don't Float is a statewide injury prevention program developed to address Alaska's high child and youth drowning rate. In a collaborative effort between several state and federal agencies, organizations and local grass-roots sponsors, Kids Don't Float includes life jacket loaner boards and educational programs.

(Continued on page 30)

Briefs

The Kids Don't Float School Program is a risk-based curriculum that uses dynamic, interactive, hands-on teaching methods to educate youth ages 5-18 about the effects of cold-water immersion, the importance of wearing a life jacket, and laws pertaining to life jackets.

"By educating youth, we are empowering them with information that could be life saving," said Kelli Toth, education specialist in the Alaska Office of Boating Safety. "Then, by serving as boating safety ambassadors they also help influence the next generation of boaters within their community."

Alaska Boating Law Administrator Jeff Johnson believes the program is making a difference. The U.S. Coast Guard's national observational life jacket wear rate study revealed that Alaska's wear rate among youth ages 13-17 is now more than 60 percent higher than the national average.

While Kids Don't Float classes were taught prior to 2005, the Office of Boating Safety began maintaining attendance records at that time.

The Kids Don't Float Program has become a model for safety educators throughout Alaska and the U.S. and was the recipient of the National Safe Boating Council's Boating Safety Youth Program Award in 2009. For more information about how to start a program in your area or to request a presentation or a class, contact Kelli Toth kelli.toth@alaska.gov or 907.269.6042.

RBFF announces five-year Hispanic outreach plan



In July the Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation (RBFF) announced the launch of a new five-year Hispanic Outreach Plan. In collaboration with Lopez Negrete, a Houston-based marketing services firm specializing in Hispanic consumer communications, the outreach plan is set to begin in 2014.

According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, overall American participation in fishing has risen 11 percent from 2006 to 2011, while Hispanic participation has remained stagnant, despite an exponential growth in this population. Seeing this as a prime opportunity to bring in new individuals to these recreational activities, RBFF began discussions with Lopez Negrete to map out a plan targeting this key market segment.

The five-year plan will focus on a multi-channel outreach approach encompassing digital, social and traditional media, retail point-of-sale strategy and engagement with state agencies. RBFF will pilot the program in states that have a high propensity of Hispanic consumers.

"With the Hispanic population currently at 53 million, this cohort is a critical group to engage, ensuring the long-term sustainability of two of America's favorite pastimes," says Frank Peterson, RBFF's President and CEO.

Preliminary research indicates the underrepresentation of Hispanics in fishing and boating – currently only 1.675 million out of the 53 million population – is due in part to lack of familiarity of the sport and knowledge of licensing requirements.

"Based on these findings," adds Peterson, "we will focus heavily on awareness and education in the beginning years, and then will shift to drive participation in years three through five."

More information about RBFF's Hispanic Outreach Plan, including a list of participating states, will be released this summer. For more information about RBFF and Take Me Fishing, visit TakeMeFishing.org.

Fish and Wildlife Service announces more than \$7.3 million in grants to boost recreational boating

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has announced more than \$6.9 million in competitive grants to six states and one U.S.

territory for projects to support recreational boating through the Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG) Tier II program. The Service also will release



approximately \$400,000 to six states willing to match a smaller grant program known as BIG Tier I.

Along with \$13.5 million in BIG funds provided in April, the Service awarded a total of nearly \$21 million through this program in Fiscal Year 2013. BIG Tier II grants will be made for efforts in Florida, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, South Carolina and the U.S. Virgin Islands. In addition, the Service will release approximately \$400,000 to six states: Florida, Louisiana, New York, South Carolina, Washington and Wisconsin through BIG Tier I. Using Tier I grant funds, states make awards through their own competitive processes.

Funding for the BIG program comes from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund, formerly known as the Aquatic Resources Trust Fund, which boaters and manufacturers support through excise and other taxes on certain fishing and boating equipment and gasoline. For more information about the BIG Tier II projects, visit:
http://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/Subpages/GrantPrograms/BIG/BIG_Funding.htm.

Ride, run to honor law enforcement officers



Come out for the third annual Ride & Run to Remember in Washington, D.C., on Oct. 12-13, 2013. The Ride & Run is a great opportunity to join the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund for a fun, community-oriented athletic event and honor the contribution and sacrifice law enforcement officers make every day.

There are many ways to get involved:

- Ride: 55- or 30-mile bike ride on Saturday, Oct. 12.
- Run: 5K run on Sunday, Oct. 13.
- Road Warrior: Go the extra mile for law enforcement by completing both the Ride AND the Run!

- Virtual Participant: If you won't be able to join the fun in Washington, D.C., you can participate virtually from wherever you are. Virtual Participants are eligible to receive a Ride & Run to Remember T-shirt, bib and medal, and to earn fundraising rewards.
- Volunteer: Not a runner or a rider? Volunteer! The success of this event depends heavily on the support of more than 150 volunteers.

In addition to the registration fee, each participant is required to raise at least \$72 in honor of the law enforcement officer lives lost on Sept. 11, 2001, the deadliest day in law enforcement history. For more information, visit http://support.nleomf.org/site/PageNavigator/rtrr2013_home.html.

Take Me Fishing teams with Disney to connect families with boating, fishing



The Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation (RBFF) and its Take Me Fishing campaign announced a new alliance relationship with Walt Disney World Resort and Disney Media Networks that will encourage kids and families to connect with nature through boating and fishing.

Walt Disney World Resort offers guided fishing excursions, dockside fishing and cane pole fishing. The alliance relationship will encourage guests who boat and fish at Walt Disney World Resort to continue these memorable experiences at home by connecting them with TakeMeFishing.org, which provides information about where to boat and fish in their local communities.

"We're thrilled to work with Disney to make 'Take Me Fishing' part of guests' fishing and boating experiences at Walt Disney World Resort," said Frank Peterson, president and CEO of RBFF. "By doing so, we are able to promote boating and fishing

to a broader audience and expand on our shared vision of connecting kids and families with nature."

RBFF also will leverage the reach and engagement of Disney Media Networks to keep boating and fishing top of mind, including sponsorship of relevant Phineas and Ferb episodes on Disney Channel and Disney XD, activating at popular community events around the country with Radio Disney, as well as integration of the Take Me Fishing messaging within the popular "Where's My Perry" app.

Ohio governor signs Boater Freedom Act

On July 10, Governor John R. Kasich signed into law House Bill 29, known as the "Boater Freedom Act," which establishes criteria for watercraft safety inspections on Ohio's waters. This legislation will decrease the number of safety inspections that recreational boaters experience on Lake Erie and all of Ohio's waterways.

Ohio Department of Natural Resources Director (ODNR) James Zehringer attended the signing and praised the legislative efforts to craft a bill that defines when state and local law enforcement officers may board recreational watercraft for the purpose of conducting vessel safety inspections.

The bill, which went into effect with the Governor's signature, establishes that a state or local law enforcement officer will no longer have the authority to stop or board a vessel to conduct a safety inspection unless the owner or operator voluntarily requests such an inspection; there is reasonable suspicion the vessel, its equipment or its operator is in violation of watercraft or local law; or the boat is being inspected as part of an authorized checkpoint.

The bill additionally exempts charter boat captains and others holding certain U.S. Coast Guard credentials and endorsements from completing Ohio's boater education course. When testifying in support of the bill, ODNR Division of Watercraft Chief Rodger Norcross said those individuals are already educated in boater safety through the process of obtaining their license. *

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Partnership takes advanced boating education courses online

Partner in Command from the US Power Squadrons, now available online, gives the first mate the skills needed to take the helm in an emergency. USCG photo

Two leading boating education organizations with a history of making boating education easy and affordable, have teamed up to offer a fully interactive online seminar for those first mates who may find themselves needing to take command of the family boat. Partner in Command, from the US Power Squadrons (USPS), in partnership with the BoatUS Foundation for Boating Safety, aims to acquaint the boaters with basic skills they may need in an emergency. The seminar is now available online at www.usps.org/edonline. The cost is \$70 (or just \$55.30 for members of USPS, US Coast Guard Auxiliary, Great Lakes Cruising Club and, for a limited time, BoatUS).

The US Power Squadrons is a nonprofit, educational organization dedicated to making boating safer and more enjoyable through teaching boaters' courses and seminars covering dozens of topics. To

date, over four million boaters have taken a USPS course or seminar. The partnership with the BoatUS Foundation aims to increase the accessibility to boating education courses by tapping into the Foundation's expertise at presenting engaging and effective course materials for online study at home. Aiming for the 70 million American boaters and millions more worldwide, Partner in Command is just the first seminar to be put online. US Power Squadrons have over 30 advanced courses and seminars taught by local squadrons that will be made available online in the next two to three years. The next offerings will include seminars on Boating on Rivers, Locks and Lakes, and the Using VHF and VHF/DSC Marine Radio, as well as the USPS Seamanship course.

"US Power Squadrons' mission is to teach boaters how to get more fun out of their boating experience by being more

informed, safe and confident," said USPS Chief Commander John Alter. "We have been doing it for 100 years and no one does it better."

The BoatUS Foundation began when Boat Owners Association of The United States' (BoatUS) Founder and Chairman Richard Schwartz testified before Congress in 1969 that led to the watershed Federal Boat Safety Act of 1971. Today, BoatUS's member-funded 501(c)(3) nonprofit BoatUS Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water is a national leader promoting safe, clean and responsible boating, and provides innovative educational outreach directly to boaters and anglers with the aim of reducing accidents and fatalities. The Foundation's Online Boating Safety Course is the only free, NASBLA-approved online boating safety course in 33 states. To date, over one million boaters have taken the course. ✨



PARTNER PERSPECTIVES

*Robin Freeman
Vice President – Education
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Association*

Recently, my husband Rick and I were putting up bird netting over our little orchard. He'd made PVC arches over the whole fenced area, and he thought to tie a rope through the grommets on either end and pull the netting over. He threw me a length of parachute cord, and I whipped out a bowline through the grommet lickety-split, curled the extra line up heaving-line style and let fly over the orchard. I grinned (it was a good shot), and thought, "I never would have known this stuff without the Auxiliary."

Later that week, I was tying up some dill to dry, and secured them to pantry shelving, using a round turn and two half hitches. I laughed at that, too, recalling my confusion when I first learned the name of that particular knot. (Many years earlier, I asked my instructor what the knot was called. "Round turn and two half hitches," was the reply. "Yes, I know what it is, but what's the knot called?" That went on for several exchanges before I got it). So, I got to wondering just what else I've learned or done that has been thanks to my participation in the Auxiliary.

It's been an

When I took my first boating class 20 years ago, literally I didn't know bow from stern. Port and starboard really had me going. Six weeks of boating education twice a week was boating overload for this complete landlubber. But, I had a great time and, thanks to the fabulous people teaching the classes, decided to join the Auxiliary and put other novice boaters through the same "torture." I knew I had a long way to go to be an effective boating safety instructor – especially the parts having to do with actual boating.

While I worked on becoming an instructor, I studied hard to become a vessel examiner, spending eight months being mentored – on-the-job training – by some of the best. I learned a lot about boats and boating! Additionally, Rick and I volunteered our boat as a Coast Guard Auxiliary facility and went to work in earnest in the Auxiliary Boat Crew program. We were at the right time and place for my training, because at that time the Search and Rescue Detachment (SARDET) in Morro Bay was being staffed in anticipation of becoming a Motor Lifeboat Station, so we trained weekly

education

with the young men and women arriving in Morro Bay.

I used what I learned about compasses and chart reading when I backpacked through the Yorkshire Dales; put my experience in communications to use helping train a couple of break-in crewmembers at a Royal Lifeboat station; was able to assist moving 35 passengers safely to a rescue boat when I found myself on a disabled boat one night at sea. I used my "degree" from Aids to Navigation School to wire up solar panels for our well systems (as well as get to work on buoys, which was a blast). I used my training for real on many SAR cases. I've learned that if you train like your life depends on it when times are routine, when your life does depend on it, your training will make it routine. I've learned to work as a crewman or coxswain safely and calmly when before I'd have been choked with fear. I've learned on-the-water confidence as well as valuable decision-making skills. In addition, I've discovered that I could

do much more than I thought I could when under pressure.

Taking advantage of training provided at the International Boating & Water Safety Summit and NASBLA's Annual Conference has been great, too. For example, thanks to the opportunities presented by the American Canoe Association, I was comfortable enough with stand up paddleboarding to rent SUPs for my grandson last summer and give him a tutorial as well as a safe and fun day on the water.

A personal highlight for me was being in the front row at a Change of Command ceremony at Station Apra Harbor, Guam, watching my chosen "son" become Officer in Charge, his first command. We've been part of each other's family since the day we met at Coast Guard Station Morro Bay in the days following 9/11.

None of this would have happened without my participation in the Auxiliary!

In addition, and without a doubt the most treasured education, has been meeting and working with so many fellow boating safety advocates and professionals around the world. I've been fortunate enough to represent my organization for a long time and see many great places from coast to coast and borders north to south, and work side-by-side with so many of you. Thank you for your mentoring, your leadership, and for helping me understand the selfless larger world of boating safety. I've had many a great adventures and loads of fun doing boating safety education. Plus, I use in my daily life many of the skills I've learned. Those are eclipsed by only one thing: The people and friendships. I have made friends-for-life and will cherish those forever.

For a California kid from a small town most people in California haven't even heard of, yes, it has been an education. It's been 20 years I will never forget and will never regret. Thank you, Coast Guard Auxiliary, and all of you! *

FROM THE HELM (continued from page 2)

In addition, since the passage of The National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995 (P.L. 104-113) ("NTTAA") as well as the issuance of the Office of Management and Budget Circular A-119, ANSI has facilitated the trend of government agencies using voluntary consensus standards created by the private sector as an alternative to agency-developed standards. Since the passage of the NTTAA, this trend has accelerated, as the law makes clear that this is not just a good idea but also a requirement where use of such standards is consistent with agency policy and appropriate for agency purposes. Moving forward with this process will ultimately strengthen and unify the national boating education program.

● **RBS Professional Certification:**

Recent surveys show a wide range of experience and expertise among boating safety personnel. Key sworn or civilian individuals in each state and territory, in addition to boating law administrators (BLAs), are employed within RBS ranks. Data shows that many of these individuals are hired with limited RBS program knowledge and may experience

budget constraints and travel restrictions which limit training and peer-to-peer interaction. Development of the RBS Professional Certification addresses this gap, providing a voluntary consent-based RBS professional training standard. Based on this professional development standard, the RBS Professional Certification will identify vital domains and training opportunities (virtual and in-person) based on recognized, authoritative literature to qualify an individual for national program assessment. The pathway to earning the RBS Professional Certification will standardize a nationwide process for professional development and recognition in a RBS professional's career.

In direct support of this effort, NASBLA is pleased to announce the addition of Mr. John Malatak to NASBLA staff as the certification program manager. Working with Education Director Pamela Dillon, John brings 42 years of professional experience from the American Red Cross and the U.S. Coast Guard, Division of Boating Safety to this key role in the new certification initiative.

While at the American Red Cross more two decades ago, John helped launch a national certification program that continues to serve the needs of the preparedness and safety community today. His wealth of experience, including his years of service to the RBS community in the U.S. Coast Guard, will serve our association well and helps us lead this effort forward.

So there you have it: Two distinct game changer courses NASBLA is navigating to advance our national education efforts. We will continue to trim our sails as we move closer to our goals, gaining efficacy and efficiency. Both programs are in uncharted waters with expectations of treasures and challenges. With continued member support, we are ready to face the challenges ahead. We know the treasures are vast and well worth the work. We hope you share our excitement as we advance these efforts.

*Note: A very special "thank you" to our education director, Pamela Dillon, who collaborated with us on this column. **



Signs a sunny day on the water could turn stormy

While fall quickly approaches and hurricane season nears its end, this does not mean we are out of danger for foul weather. As prudent mariners underway, we must keep a good eye out for signs of approaching weather. When a thunderstorm looms on the horizon, it's time to get ashore – and fast. Lightning, torrential rain, and rough seas can turn a pleasurable outing into a life-threatening ordeal in a heartbeat. Yet, unwary boaters are still taken by surprise, largely because they don't realize just how fast a storm can come up, or the danger it presents. This is why helping boaters “keep a weather eye” remains an important part of every safe boating campaign. National Boating Education Standard 3.1 - Checking Local Weather and Water Conditions contains a key element that is taught in all our basic boating courses.

In 2012, nearly five percent of reported recreational boating accidents nationwide were weather related. Nonetheless, when weather does play a factor, the resulting accidents can be horrific. Severe conditions can quickly overwhelm smaller craft, resulting in swamping, capsizing, collisions, falls overboard, and other dangerous occurrences.

Some thunderstorms, for example, create microbursts – intense downdrafts over an area a half-mile to three miles wide capable of producing wind gusts from 60 mph to more than 100 mph. Microbursts can capsize a small boat or blow a passenger overboard.

Boaters should be reminded that they can track the extended five-day forecast, either on local AM/FM radio or television, or on the more detailed Internet weather sites, like the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Marine Forecast and information web page at www.weather.gov/om/marine/home.htm. Modern technology allows us to monitor approaching weather in “real time” with smartphones and other electronic devices.

Before heading out from the marina or launch ramp, boaters should know to check for small craft advisories, storm warnings and other alerts of higher wind and waves – either occurring now or expected within the next 24 hours.

Once on the water, technology can give operators of even very small boats an edge. VHF-FM weather radios or VHF transceivers with built-in NOAA weather radio channels are readily obtained at most marine retail outlets, with HF single sideband transceivers available as a backup for those ranging farther out on the water.

Of course, knowing there's a “chance of a thunderstorm” won't necessarily tell a boater when one is headed his or her way.

Weather fronts typically move in from the west/southwest, so scanning the horizon in that direction periodically can pick up far off lightning flashes and other signs.

For larger recreational boats, a barometer is a valuable tool to have on board – it should be checked every two to three hours. A rise in barometric pressure signals fair weather. A rapid drop means a fast-approaching storm.

Being able to recognize storm cloud patterns is also a useful skill. A “lowering ceiling” – flat clouds getting lower and thicker – means an approaching storm front. A hot, humid day frequently means thunderstorms as radiant heat from the land picks up moisture from the water and puffy, vertical clouds grow into thunderheads. The result is a violent squall, accompanied by a sudden drop in temperature, sharp winds, suddenly heavier seas and an increased risk of those microbursts we talked about.

The risks of swamping, capsizing, falling overboard or hitting a floating object all increase in stormy weather, so as always the most important equipment on board – and worn at all times – is a Coast Guard-approved life jacket for all passengers. This cannot be overstated.

Educating boaters to watch for weather signs, as well as improved marine forecasting and radio/GPS technology, has been a huge success in reducing accidents and any resulting fatalities. In fact, in 2002, weather dropped out of the Coast Guard's “Top Ten Contributing Factors” in its annual compilation of boating statistics.

Bottom line: Weather can be both friend and foe to the recreational boater. Staying alert to weather changes, and taking appropriate action when necessary, goes a long way toward safeguarding property and the lives of everyone on board the boat.

Essential steps include: always wear a life jacket and require passengers to do the same; never boat under the influence (BUI); successfully complete a boating safety course; and get a Vessel Safety Check (VSC) annually from your local U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, United States Power Squadrons, or your state boating agency's Vessel Examiners.

The U.S. Coast Guard reminds all boaters to “Boat Responsibly!” For more information, visit www.USCGboating.org. For more weather information, visit the Coast Guard Storm Center at www.uscg.mil/news/stormcenter. *

STORM WARNINGS

Changes that indicate an approaching weather front:

- Flat clouds getting lower and thicker.
- Puffy, vertically rising clouds getting higher.
- Dark, threatening clouds, especially to the west/southwest.
- A sudden drop in temperature.
- A halo around the sun or moon.
- Increasing wind or a sudden change in wind direction.
- Flashes on the horizon.
- Seas becoming heavy.
- Heavy AM radio static, indicating nearby thunderstorm activity.



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small craft advisory

September-October 2013 | Vol. 28 No. 5

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2013-15 Recreational Boating Safety Calendar

2013

October

12
**National Boating Federation
Executive Committee Meeting**
Cleveland, Ohio
www.n-b-f.org/meetings
313.770.4769

14-18
**NASBLA
Advanced Boating Accident
Investigation Course**
Phoenix, Arizona
www.nasbla.org
chris@nasbla.org
859.225-9487

16-19
US Sailing Annual Meeting
Captiva, Florida
www.ussailing.org
KatieOuellette@ussailing.org
401.683.0800

23-27
**Canada Power & Sail Squadron
National Conference**
Toronto, Canada
www.cps-ecp.ca

25-27
**American Canoe Association
Swiftwater Rescue Conference**
Sylva, North Carolina
www.americancanoe.org
whitewatersam@gmail.com

November

6
**National Recreational Boating
Safety Coalition Meeting**
Washington, D.C.
NRBSCoalition@aol.com
202.257.2836

7-8
**Water Sports Industry Association
Parasail Operators Symposium**
St. Petersburg Beach, Florida
www.wsia.net

2014

January
26- February 2
**United States Power Squadrons
Annual Meeting**
Jacksonville, Florida
<http://www.usps.org>

February
19-20
**NASBLA
BLA Workshop**
Lexington, Kentucky
www.nasbla.org
info@nasbla.org
859.225.9487

March
19-21
**National Drowning Prevention
Alliance Educational Conference**
Orlando, Florida
<http://ndpa.org/home>

April

14-17
**International Boating & Water Safety
Summit**
Nashville, Tennessee
<http://www.ibwss.org>

May
6-7
**National Marine Manufacturers
Association American Boating
Congress**
Washington, D.C.
<http://www.nmma.org/government/abc/default.aspx>

16
Wear Your Life Jacket to Work Day
www.safeboatingcampaign.com

17
Ready, Set, Wear It!
www.ReadySetWearIt.com

17-24
National Safe Boating Week
www.SafeBoatingCampaign.com

September

7-14
**United States Power Squadrons
Governing Board Meeting**
Arlington, Virginia
<http://www.usps.org>

October

15-19
**NASBLA
Annual Conference**
Bar Harbor, Maine
www.nasbla.org
info@nasbla.org
859.225.9487

2015

January
18-25
**United States Power Squadrons
Annual Meeting**
Jacksonville, Florida
www.usps.org

May
6-7
American Boating Congress
Washington, D.C.
www.nmma.org

16-22
National Safe Boating Week
www.SafeBoatingCampaign.com

September

7-14
**United States Power Squadrons
Governing Board Meeting**
Arlington, Virginia
www.usps.org

