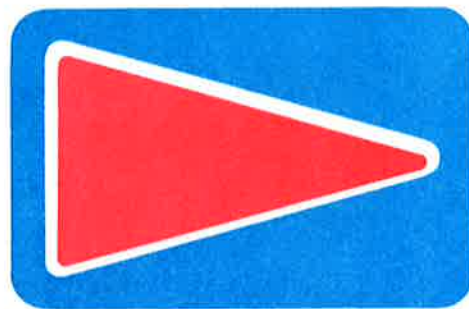


National Association of State Boating Law Administrator's

SMALL CRAFT ADVISORY



**Vol. V No.3
February/March**



President's Corner

By Major Randolph Dill

On June 25 1971, this boating law administrator began his career in natural resource law enforcement, later to include boating safety enforcement, with the Connecticut Dept. of Fisheries and Game. On that exciting first day of what has been nearly two decades of events and experiences, I received the sum total of my formal training as a rookie conservation officer.

I received time sheets, mileage report forms, case report forms, court forms of several varieties, and a ticket book as well as a variety of forms and reports relating to fish and wildlife management. My training was complete. Well, not exactly, I also received OJT (that's on-the-job training) from an officer who had received the same formal training I did, except he now had *experience*. I suspect there's not a few of you who work for natural resource agencies who are thinking that this scenario sounds vaguely familiar.

But what's your point, you ask. My point is simply this, we have come a long, long way with training since June 25, 1971.

Three years after I started work with the agency, I and my fellow officers were sent to the Connecticut Police Academy for formal police training. Since then, no officer works for very long before he/she is sent to the academy for 14 to 16 weeks of comprehensive law enforcement training. In addition, officers receive intensive firearms training including mandatory annual qualification. They also receive regular training in first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, in-service legal training (search and seizure), motor vehicle law, shellfish law, and a myriad of other wildlife regulations.

Yes, we've come a long way, but I fear we have a long way to go yet/ Boating safety training for enforcement officers is still sporadic at best in many jurisdictions. Boating safety has not, for

many, received the level of importance that drugs, motor vehicles, and many other areas of criminal law enforcement receive. For example, it has not, for many of us, become a regular course of instruction in our police academies.

I think we need to work in that direction. But until academies respond, we need to continue to encourage the Coast Guard to keep its boating safety school in Yorktown, Virginia, open to state officers. We need to continue joint private/public efforts such as the accident investigation seminars sponsored by the Coast Guard, states, and Underwriters Laboratories. And we need to share and exchange our individual training expertise/resources with our sister states on a regional basis. Some of us with active municipal marine enforcement units need to share such resources with our local counterparts. Here in Connecticut our success with such training programs may be limited if we cannot procure the resources to meet the increasing training demand from our cities and towns.

I am encouraged that NASBLA can take more of a leadership role through the work of the Officer Training Committee. As president, I will continue the committee's charge to develop and publish a "Model Boating Safety Officer's Training Course."

That such a course may reinforce some programs and become a goal for others shows the diversity of training programs across the country and the need for collective effort toward our mutual goals in boating safety.



Coast Guard Comments

By Captain Alan Rosebrook

Since the theme of this issue is training, it may be a good time to take a quick look at the National Boating Safety Course. The 10-day course, held at the Coast Guard Reserve Training Center, Yorktown, Virginia, has been designed to meet the needs of state marine law enforcement officers.

Course topic areas include such subjects as boat safety laws, operating under the influence of alcohol or drugs, boat equipment and operator requirements, boating manufacturer standards, and marine accident investigations. In addition, each student receives sufficient classroom training in preparing and presenting lessons to enable them to return home and teach others.

The National Boating Safety Course is designed to promote uniformity of boating laws and enforcement efforts among the states and other federal agencies having marine law enforcement responsibilities. The curriculum is revised and updated as the laws or needs of the students change. I believe that we have a very good course, but with your help we can make it better. Please actively support the course by helping us fill each of the three classes held annually. I would also like to have input on ways to improve the course (adding or dropping subjects, etc.). Please let me know if you have skilled instructors from your state who might be able to teach in one or more subject areas at the course. If you have ideas you would like to share please send them to me at : Commandant (G-NAB), 2100 Second St., SW, Washington, D.C., 20593; or give me a call at (202) 267-1077.

SMALL CRAFT ADVISORY



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NEWS

Legislative affairs focus on funding and proposed user fees

To cop a phrase "Here we go again" is certainly true for the second session of the 101st Congress. The administration is again asking for a lesser amount of funding from the Wallop-Breaux Trust Fund for the Boat Safety Account than authorized and raising the old issue of 'new boat user fees'.

The administration is asking for only \$60 million of the \$70 million authorized for the Boat Safety Account in the fiscal 1991 budget request. This \$60 million would be split \$30 million each between the states and the Coast Guard. Since funding for the program is derived from user fees (i.e. tax boaters pay on their motorboat fuel, not general fund revenues), we would obviously like to see the FY1991 budget reflect the full \$70 million authorized.

The administration's FY 1991 budget request proposes charging each recreational and commercial boater using waterways patrolled by the Coast Guard \$25 annually for a decal and charge direct fees for specific Coast Guard services such as licensing and inspections.

NASBLA views with concern this proposed user fee, recognizing that the Wallop-Breaux trust funds are a 'user fee' paid by boaters to pay for specific state and federal services that benefit that specific user group, the 'boat owner'. This is considered to be in keeping with the user fee concept. We question how the administration can justify a new boat user fee when the present user fee deposited in the Wallop-Breaux Trust Fund for use in the Boat Safety Account is not being requested as the law provides.

Oregon revamps boat registration program

Oregon is in the process of completely revamping its boat registration program, according to Paul Donheffner, director of the Oregon State Marine Resources Board. By the time the refurbished program is complete, Oregon will have improved its ability to analyze boating statistics, both for law enforcement and for the boaters.

Oregon routinely surveys boat owners, with this year's survey due to be wrapped up in late winter or early spring. The questionnaire covers such areas as common boating destinations, frequency of boat use, fuel consumption, facilities used or desired, law enforcement, user conflicts, licensing and the possibility of mandatory education.

The last survey had an 85 percent return rate. The current

survey, involving 6,000 boaters, appears to have a similar return rate with questionnaires still coming in.

Florida boating deaths decline

Boating deaths are down by a very substantial number in Florida, according to preliminary figures put together by the Florida Marine Patrol. Boating Safety Coordinator Major Denis Grealish noted that there were 79 boating accident deaths in the state last year, down from 105 in 1988.

Of the 1989 deaths, 64 were in recreational craft, 14 in commercial vessels, and one was in a speed trial. The 1988 figures included 94 recreational boater deaths and 11 commercial vessel deaths.

At the last formal count, there were 710,831 registered vessels in Florida, and this only counted mechanically propelled vessels. Growth rate is about 5 percent a year, which would mean around 725,000 registered motor vessels in the state at the present time, a figure which will increase by about 37,000 this year.

A number of factors have apparently been involved in the decrease: a high level of boating law enforcement, high visibility and contact presence of enforcement vessels, boating education, and media exposure, Grealish said.

Engfer named Wisconsin BLA

There's a new hand at the helm of the Wisconsin boating law administration program, William G. "Bill" Engfer, who replaces the retired Dale Morey.

Engfer took over his new position after having been the Lake Michigan District law enforcement safety specialist for three years. With more and more boats being registered in Wisconsin each year, Engfer sees user conflicts as the main challenge of his new job.

"There's plenty of opportunity and challenge here. I see a potential for getting out to a completely new public of adult boat buyers and operators with our boat safety education program," Engfer said. "We have an enthusiastic group to teach, many of whom haven't been exposed to boating before they purchased their first recreation craft."

Engfer is originally from Cochrane, Wisc. He began working for the Department of Natural Resources in 1982 and served as a field conservation officer for five years before being promoted to the Law Enforcement Safety Specialist job at Green Bay.



Instead of a more traditional gavel, retiring Boating Law Administrator Dale Morey, left, handed over a ship's wheel to his successor, Bill Engfer.

Puerto Rico develops recreation program

Look for a significant expansion of the Puerto Rico DNR Ranger Corps. According to Commissioner of Navigation Jesus Galvez, the DNR is in the process of creating an outdoor recreation program focused on lakes. Goal is to have a Ranger at each lake as an enforcement and resource person. In most cases, a single Ranger with a vehicle and boat will be adequate to provide services at a lake.

At the same time, the Ranger Corps is creating an undercover unit for endangered species enforcement. While in the past Rangers have dealt with federal fisheries and game laws, including endangered species, now the Rangers will be deputized by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to expand enforcement efforts.

Oregon reviews marine law enforcement status

What's the status of marine law enforcement in Oregon? The Oregon Marine Board is going to be able to put some hard numbers on the table answering that question once its current very comprehensive law enforcement plan and review is completed.

Goal is to inventory what is available in terms of troop levels, police equipment, and training, and measure the existing state of readiness against the projected needs of the boating community. With those numbers in hand, the board will be able to more accurately determine existing efficiency as well as to plot out those areas which need to be strengthened.

Oklahoma revamps boating statutes

Have the boating rules and regulations in Oklahoma been as clear and understandable to the layman as they might be? No, concedes Lt. Ron Davis, commander of the Lake Patrol Division.

About the Cover

Programs offered to marine enforcement officers throughout the California Department of Boating and Waterways can get hot and heavy, as shown in this firefighting exercise at a recent class. The state agency provides training and support to sheriff departments and other enforcement organizations.

That's why the state is in the process of turning all the boating rules and regulations around, in the form of a series of supplements.

The goal of the program is to break the law up into a series of statutes, taking as a form the state motor vehicle code.

"We want something that will be very clear to the layman as to what is and what is not a violation."

Under Oklahoma law, all units of local government have to have the state Department of Public Safety check out the legality and conformance with state statutes any proposed local boating ordinances.

The state has also developed a comprehensive accident investigation program and form. Everyone must now use the same form to report boating accidents.

West Virginia seeks Boating Under Influence data

How effective are Boating Under the Influence laws? That's a major question in West Virginia enforcement circles now, and the Law Enforcement Division of the state's Department of Natural Resources is compiling information on such legislation from around the nation.

Being sought is information on the scope of the various forms of BUI legislation and comments on the effectiveness of that legislation. Areas of specific interest include whether or not there was a decrease in accidents, methods of enforcement, and degree of enforcement. Agencies willing to share information may contact Major William Daniel, Law Enforcement Division, Capitol Complex, Building 3, Charleston, WV, 25305.

Information sought on vertical gaze nystagmus testing

Have you had experience with or have information about vertical gaze nystagmus testing? If so, Rick Storm, Colorado BLA would like to hear from you.

He has been hearing bits and pieces of information about the vertical gaze testing, and is putting together information and results about the process.

Colorado now has a new Boating Under the Influence law, and he is researching training-specific methods, apprehension information, and results of prosecution.

He is interested in applications beyond alcohol and including drug detection.

If you have such information, you can pass it along to him at:

Rick Storm

Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation

13787 S. Highway 85, Littleton, CO 80125

Telephone (303) 791-1954

FAX (303) 791-1956.

Instructor's Notes

by Bill Satow

Teach your children well: *California's approach to water safety education*

California Department of Boating and Waterways

Nationally, water-related accidents have dropped from the third to the fourth leading cause of accidental deaths. However, in the 4 through 19 age group water-related accidents remain the second leading cause of accidental deaths.

Over the past few years, California has been working diligently to decrease the number of deaths from drowning in this younger age group. The California Dept. of Boating and Waterways in cooperation with the California Dept. of Education has developed three boating safety and aquatic educational programs and has provided them to the California public school system. The programs are keyed to three grade levels: the first, fifth and tenth.

California has in excess of 7,000 schools with a population of over four million students. The department's Boating and Water Safety Education Program is presently being offered free of charge in over 1,000 school districts.

The programs require minimal classroom time, and can be used as a rainy-day filler or a substitute format. The skills and knowledge offered by these three programs are intended to be used throughout the student's life. The objective is for the student to be able to recognize some of the hazards in and around the water, to become familiar with rescue techniques, and to derive greater enjoyment from water activities. The three programs were created through a cost-effective method of combining video tapes, instructor's notes, publications, and posters.

Grades K-3: Play it safe

The basic program, titled "Play It Safe", is targeted for the first grade, but is suitable anywhere within the K-3 level. A strong emphasis is placed on parent participation to reinforce the information presented to the child in the classroom.

"Play It Safe" is presented in cartoon format and consists of a two-part, 24 minute video tape, with a 17- by 22-inch safety poster given to each child to take home. The poster uses the same cartoon characters presented in the video tape. The reverse side emphasizes the importance of water safety and encourages the parent to continue reinforcing the lessons learned in the classroom.

Fifth Grade: "Wet N' Safe"

The second program is titled "Wet N' Safe" and is targeted for the fifth grade. It consists of a textbook complemented by a 12-minute video tape. It is more advanced than the K-3 program, and is suitable anywhere within the fourth to sixth grade level.



The lessons in the textbook are "involvement-oriented", which incorporates the concept of the students' presence in and around to increase learning stimulus through personal involvement. These lessons can be used separately or combined with other instructional areas, such as reading, language, arts or health. The lessons depict a typical, water-

related emergency, and include a review and discussion section with questions and answers.

Tenth Grade: "Boating The Right Way"

The third program is titled "Boating The Right Way" and is targeted for the tenth grade. It emphasizes recreational boating safety in all types of watercraft. The program consists of a textbook, supplemented by a three-part video tape, and teacher's notes.

The textbook explains the basic operation of watercraft, the use of safety equipment, environmental effects, and laws and regulations. Additional instructions include emergency repairs, piloting, navigation, proper clothing, first aid, trailering, and operating skills. The video tape focuses on three areas of complexity: first aid, rules of the road, and seamanship.

The aquatic safety instruction materials, resources, and local assistance provided by the Department of Boating and Waterways are systematically designed so that any school can present instruction at virtually any level.

Through this program, the Department of Boating and Waterways provides continuing boating and water safety education, beginning at an early age, in a proven learning ground toward a better future for California.

Arkansas boating classes taught by Auxiliary

Cooperation is the key to boating education in Arkansas, according to Boating Education Coordinator Richard L. Gregory. He's worked closely with the Coast Guard Auxiliary to have that organization teach the state's six-hour basic boating safety class, with the Auxiliary teaching about half of the 52 state courses offered last year.

Students going through the state course are having their appetite whetted for further boating education, and a substantial percentage of them are signing up for the full Auxiliary course and following that with Auxiliary membership.

A growing number of Auxiliary flotillas are becoming interested in teaching the state program, seeing the initial successes of the cooperative program. As of yet, no Power Squadron has offered the state class, but Gregory is discussing the possibility with them.

Iowa Begins Titling Crackdown

Look for some major changes in the titling and registration process in Iowa, alerted Rick McGeough, chief of the Fish and Wildlife Division's Bureau of Law Enforcement within the Department of Natural Resources. Changes won't involve any alterations in the legal requirements for titling and registration, but will focus on a statewide effort to bring boat dealerships as well as the private boat seller and purchaser into compliance with the law.

The titling and registration emphasis sprang from a mandate to the Bureau's district supervisors to spell out their enforcement goals and objects for 1990. One supervisor proposed creating a special program just to work with the boat dealers on the titling and registration process. He suggested forming a task force of officers thoroughly familiar with the titling process, and with all the information on how to expedite the process in a timely, accurate and legal manner.

The concept rapidly gained acceptance through the districts, and has evolved into a Bureau goal for this year. The effort was expanded beyond the original emphasis on boat dealers to include the private selling buying public.

"We have to impress on people that this is a legal requirement," McGeough stressed, referring to the titling and registration process.

Officers will go into every boat dealership in the state, identify every boat — new or used — on the premises, and will identify what registration and titling documents are required for each of those boats. They'll also physically check to make certain that all the required paperwork is on hand for each and every one of those vessels.

Efforts to bring the private sector into compliance will take place on two fronts: public education programs will spell out the steps buyers and sellers must or should take; and at the same time, the bureau will work closely with the various county recorders to make certain that the recording offices are in compliance.

As McGeough warned, when a buyer does not re-register a boat but merely rides on the previous registration, the seller is potentially exposed to liability.

"If everyone followed the legal procedures, there would be no problems," McGeough conceded. "But if I was selling a boat, I'd go right down to the county recorder with the buyer and make certain the registration was signed over."

Nebraska gears up for BWI law

The major training thrust for officers of the Nebraska Game & Parks Law Enforcement Division this year will be the state's newly enacted Boating While Intoxicated law.

Leroy Orvis, the state's Boating Law Administrator, said in-service training will lean heavily on identification of potentially intoxicated boaters as well as the proper use of detection equipment. The law only covers operators of motor boats. The legislation spells out that motor boat operators are deemed to have given consent for alcohol testing.

Kansas studies alcohol incidence

Rough figures indicate that a significant percentage of recreational boaters indulge in alcoholic beverages, but there are no hard numbers in Kansas to substantiate or refute that assumption. But all that is about to change. The state, after buying testing equipment, is planning a random, voluntary testing study of motor boat operators to determine the actual percentage of boaters who have imbibed. Testing will be done on a strictly voluntary basis and will be accomplished by non-law enforcement personnel to eliminate the skewing of results by operators fearing arrest or citations.

New PFD's for old

It's an all-too-familiar sight: a boater packing about the tattered and barely serviceable remnants of a personal flotation device just to satisfy the legal requirements. That may be coming to an end in Oregon, thanks to a promotion by radio station KISN. The station, which dubs itself as the boater's radio station because of its coverage of many maritime events, donated 200 Type 2 PFD's to the Multnomah County Sheriff's River Patrol for use in an exchange program.

Under Oregon law, the patrol may stop any boat at any time to check for required safety equipment. River patrol deputies under the exchange program will offer to exchange the new jackets for old, defective jackets.

River patrol sergeant Leroy Wells said that about 30 percent of the boats stopped have life jackets in disrepair.

The exchange program has proven to be extremely popular. It will continue in Multnomah County this year and will be expanded into Clackamas County. There is serious consideration of stretching it across the Columbia River into Washington's Clark County. Marine Patrol officers in southern Oregon's Klamath County are also looking into the possibility of developing a PFD exchange program.



Multnomah County River Patrol Sergeant Leroy Wells (l) and KISN Radio news director Chris Burns with two of the 200 new Type II adult life jackets the station donated to the patrol. Wells says that 30 percent of the boats stopped have life jackets in disrepair.

TRAINING REVIEW

Boating safety program designed for schools

"We've wanted to develop a boating safety education program that could be offered through the school system for a long time, and we're finally going to be able to do it," said James French, administrator of the Office of Boating Safety under the Washington Parks and Recreation Commission.

Key to development of the program is a new education position within the office, with the person also spending some time with grant programs.

The program will be modeled on Washington's successful hunter education program, with volunteer instructors recruited from the Coast Guard Auxiliary, marine deputies, and boating enthusiasts.

Ultimately, the program will have four segments developed for specific combined grade levels. Programs will include: Grades 1 through 3, life jackets; Grades 4 through 6, cold and swift water; Grades 7 through 9, alcohol; and Grades 10 through 12, boater responsibilities. Each segment, which will be developed under contract with teachers, will include lesson plans, audio-visual aids, and instructional units.

The four units could be linked together into a full boating course.

It now appears that the first segment will be the unit focusing on alcohol. As French sees it, this could be used as designed in the classroom, and could also be adopted with wider use within the boating community. If all goes as planned, this unit will be available for the schools starting in September.

Water Rescue training workshop set in Pennsylvania

"Water Rescue Phase 1 - Basic Rescue Preparedness" is the title of the water rescue training workshop calendered March 30-April 1 by River Rescue, Inc., Harrisburg, in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Fish Commission.

According to the sponsors, the workshop will be the Pennsylvania Water Rescue Phase I (Basic Rescue Preparedness). Heavy

emphasis will be placed on planning and training, focusing essentially on the rescuer's safety. Certificates will be issued by the Pennsylvania Fish Commission to those who successfully complete the program, including the written examination.

Cost is \$50 per person, with applications to Harrisburg River Rescue, 1119 S. Cameron St., Harrisburg, PA, 17105-2908. Registration includes handouts, coffee breaks, Saturday lunch and banquet, and Sunday lunch. Registration deadline is March 21, with no refunds after that date. Information on the training may be obtained from Virgil Chambers, Bureau of Boating, PFC, (717) 657-4540. Questions regarding the workshop should be addressed to Steve Ketterer, Commander, Harrisburg River Rescue, (717)236-5947.

California boating classes get toll-free number

California boaters who want to take boating classes sponsored by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, the U.S. Power Squadrons, or local organizations can call 1-800-869-SAIL for information on classes offered throughout California. The toll-free line is sponsored by the California Department of Boating and Waterways in cooperation with the U.S. Coast Guard. The 24-hour service is funded through taxes paid on gasoline purchased by boaters.

Watercraft Law Enforcement, Survival Tactics class slated

The Arizona Law Enforcement Advisory Council will sponsor a second 50 hour Watercraft Law Enforcement and Survival Tactics course in the fall of 1990. This course was developed and is taught mainly by the Arizona Game and Fish Department. The department also draws from the expertise available in the various sheriff's offices for some of the instructors. The course is open to all Arizona peace officers and peace officers from outside Arizona as space permits. The course last year included the full gamut of watercraft law enforcement skills from trailer launching of boats to water safety and survival and included high risk felony arrests on the water.

Kentucky Water Patrol teaches boating classes

The Kentucky Water Patrol is in the middle of its education program. The Patrol offers its eight hour basic boating safety program to all school districts, tailoring it to grade level, as well as to other public agencies and private organizations. Telephone and power companies continue to offer the basic program to their employees. About 90 percent of the classes are in the education system.

Sonar search course slated in Nevada

The Nevada Dept. of Wildlife is starting to put together a sonar search instruction course tentatively penciled in this spring. Dates have not yet been nailed down, and jurisdictions interested in having officers attend such a course should contact Fred Messman in the Nevada DOW, (702)688-1549. Messman also has information on how jurisdictions can go about sponsoring such courses in their own areas.

North Carolina trains wildlife officer pilots

Training is the name of the game for the wildlife officers under the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission. Spearheading the effort is Captain Tyson Laney, recently appointed as training officer.

Taking off in the first days of the year will be a new training class for pilots. North Carolina prefers to train its pilots from within the ranks of the wildlife officer corps, and is sorting out applications for a three-person flight training program.

How can a state protect itself from investing a considerable amount of training money in a pilot, only to see the new wings fly off to a job outside the agency? One way to do this is to limit applications to those who are serving wildlife officers with a minimum of two years with the department. The restrictive qualifications worked well in selecting the first three pilots which went through the flight training program, all of which are still with the agency. The program, with a price tag of about \$9,000 per officer, offers commercial and instrument ratings.

The four aircraft in the fleet are heavily involved in boating enforcement and search and rescue work during the spring and summer. The two-person air crews often direct waterborne officers to areas of heavy activity or potential problems, as well as enforcing laws themselves. In one case, a man in a boat attempted to convince the air crew that he had a Personal Flotation Device by attempting to don an orange object— which the crew could see was merely the top of a cooler. The boater then fled to a nearby marina. The pilot landed in a nearby field, walked over to the marina, and wrote a citation for not having required PFD's on board.

1990 Boating Accident Investigation Seminars

by Underwriters Laboratories

Dates	Place	Boating Law Admin. hosting seminar
May 1, 2, 3	Puerto Rico	Jesus M. Galvez Commissioner of Navigation (809) 724-2357
June 12, 13, 14	Indiana	Maj. Larry G. Rhinehart Dept. of Natural Resources (317) 232-4015
Sept. 11, 12, 13	Oregon	Paul Donheffner State Marine Board (503) 378-8501 FAX (503) 378-4597
Sept. 25, 26, 27	Massachusetts	Col. Allan McGroary Division of Law, FW&EL (617) 727-3190 FAX (617) 727-2754
Oct. 23, 24, 25	New Jersey	Capt. James Momm State Police (609) 882-2000 FAX (609) 882-6523
Nov. 6, 7, 8	Michigan	Herbert Burns Law Enforcement Division (517) 335-3426 FAX (517) 373-6816
Dec. 11, 12, 13	Arizona	Tim Wade Wildlife Management Division, G&F (602) 942-3000
Jan 15, 16, 17 (1991)	Texas	Capt. Dexter C. Harris Water Safety Dept., P&W (512) 389-4624 FAX (512) 389-4740

Ice safety, rescue seminars conducted in Pennsylvania

When it's winter in Pennsylvania the water gets hard - but at times not as hard as those who venture out on it believe. That's why the Pennsylvania Bureau of Boating calendars four seminars on ice safety and rescue during the winter.

As director John Simmons points out, the seminars focus on how to safely rescue someone from the ice. The two-day seminars look at safe methods of using a boat skidded over the ice to rescue a person, the proper use of throw lines, and self rescue. Techniques include hands on experience with ocean exposure suits with participants having to actually go into icy water to rescue a person.

Class sizes ranged from 15 to 20.

Connecticut Boating Safety mobile response unit

Picture a hand as the center of the Connecticut Division of Boating Safety's boating safety education program. Then each finger is another task for the division's new mobile response unit to perform.

The division, both in responding to the increasing need for boating safety education and to promote and develop a better public awareness of boating safety—not to mention the U.S. Coast Guard's mandate to increase state emphasis on boating education—has rolled out its first boating safety mobile response unit. It is the nucleus of several boating education and marine training programs. In addition, there are a number of other areas in the boating safety program which can be served by the vehicle.

Multipurpose? Take a look at the roles it will be expected to fill in the initial months of its use, with the possibility of new tasks being evolved from its operation.

Off the top, it will serve as a mobile classroom in which to visit marinas and state and municipal parks during the summer season to instruct boaters and the general public in safe boating practices.

It is expected to serve as the nucleus for a water rescue and marine law enforcement training program. Proper techniques and new technology in water rescue will be taught to municipal police and fire departments throughout the state. Equipment necessary to conduct such training will be carried and made available by this vehicle at any time. Such specialized equipment will also be available and put to use in actual emergency/rescue situations.

The mobile response vehicle will serve as a marine command center in response to major water-related catastrophes or disasters, and will have inter-agency communications capabilities. This capability will also be useful for major marine events such as the River Festival in Hartford/East Hartford, the Connecticut River Raft Race, the Thames River fireworks display, the Head of the Connecticut Regatta, and many others. It will also facilitate interagency cooperation.

The unit will serve as an emergency response vehicle for search and rescue and accident investigation. With its radar unit it is capable of searching harbor and sound areas for lost and overdue boaters in low light, low visibility conditions. The vehicle can be deployed to the general vicinity of the search and with its radar capability from the shoreline can scan the water for missing vessels, thereby reducing the time officers have to spend in a patrol boat, especially under hazardous weather and sea conditions.

Last, but far from least, it will give the agency, the Boating Safety Division, much needed visibility at marine events, boat

shows, and other public gatherings.

Funding for the vehicle was provided through the Recreational Boating Safety Financial Assistance Program, as set forth in the agreement between the State of Connecticut and the U.S. Coast Guard. As the state acknowledged, it has been made very clear that boating education and search and rescue programs must be enhanced with the state's allocation of federal funds.

On one hand, Connecticut's boating safety mobile response unit is a complete traveling classroom able to bring training programs to both the boating public and to water safety professionals. At the same time, with its radar and full complement of safety and rescue equipment, it is a fast response vehicle to just about any kind of water-oriented emergency.



Georgia adds boats, sets training plan

Georgia Fish and Game Division's five year improvement plan is pushing ahead, with plans for a variety of inservice training programs and the acquisition of new equipment slated for the early part of the year.

On the training front, the division plans to run all its enforcement personnel through programs on the mechanics of arrest and on self-defense. Instruction on field tests for sobriety/intoxication is also slated for the early part of the year. A boat accident investigation course will be presented by Underwriters Laboratories.

The division is in the process of acquiring a number of new boats, some replacing vessels in service and some augmenting the existing fleet. These will range from jon-boat type small craft up to 19- to 21-foot coastal patrol units, with enhanced communications equipment directing enforcement efforts. The new equipment will be focused on areas of high use or high levels of accidents, under the state's long-term accident reduction efforts.

One additional boat officer is being added to the division's roster.

Basic curriculum development/ training standards surveyed

What's the status of basic officer training within the NASBLA membership?

An overview of the training picture can be ascertained from the results of the "Basic Curriculum Development/Training Standards" questionnaire developed by NASBLA's Officer Training Committee, under the chairmanship of Ron Davis. The questionnaire was part of a continuing feasibility study paralleling the "Minimum Training Standards" survey published by the Law Enforcement Committee in September 1988.

The preliminary survey tabulations were based upon 36 returned questionnaires, or about 67 percent of the membership. The committee stressed that between 95 and 100 percent participation is needed to formulate a conclusion with any degree of predictive validity.

Actions under consideration by the Officer Training Committee may include conducting a comparative analysis of the survey results to determine the degree of uniformity of curriculum development, certification standards and test validity among the participants, provide a summarization of the study results, and publish the committee's findings.

Survey questions and responses

(N/R denotes no response)

Was the development of your Basic Training curriculum based upon a "Task Analysis" of job-related duties and responsibilities?

Yes, 58 percent; No, 33 percent; N/R, 8 percent.

Is your Basic Course mandated?

Yes, 67 percent; No, 22 percent; N/R, 11 percent.

Course administered by:

Commission/staff, 50 percent; Academy, 31 percent; Both, 17 percent; N/R, 2 percent.

Do you approve/certify curriculum?

Basic, 8 percent; Basic/Advanced, 11 percent; Advanced, 0 percent; Basic/Specialized, 17 percent; Specialized, 6 percent; Advanced/Specialized, 11 percent; Certify All, 31 percent; Non-Certify, 14 percent; N/R, 2 percent.

Lesson plan available for distribution upon request?

Yes, 61 percent; No, 31 percent; N/R, 8 percent.

Curriculum available for distribution upon request?

Yes, 69 percent; No, 25 percent; N/A, 6 percent.

Is an attendance record kept on students?

Per course, 33 percent; Per Block, 0 percent; Both, 56 percent; Neither, 8 percent; N/R, 3 percent.

Are students administered a course test?

Pre test, 0 percent; Post test, 39 percent; Both 47 percent;

Neither, 8 percent; N/R, 6 percent.

Are all written course quiz/tests classroom validated? Test validation analysis conducted?

Classroom validated, 8 percent; Validation analysis, 6 percent; Both, 33 percent; Neither, 39 percent; N/R, 14 percent.

Is the course outline/lesson plan strictly adhered to/ followed by the instructor?

Yes, 69 percent; No, 22 percent; N/R, 8 percent.

Do instructors ensure all incorrect answers (verbal or written) are clarified before a certificate of completion is awarded to the student?

Yes, 78 percent; No, 14 percent; N/R, 8 percent.

Is the student required to retake a block of instruction if all/part of the block is missed due to:

Absence, 8 percent; Failure, 6 percent; Both, 50 percent;

Neither, 33 percent; N/R, 3 percent.

Is there a "retest" provision in your training standards for students failing a block of instruction?

Yes, 56 percent; No, 39 percent; N/R, 5 percent.

Are instructors monitored/critiqued by the school staff periodically?

Yes, 86 percent; No, 8 percent; N/R, 6 percent.

Is the instructor development course a mandatory requirement for instructor certification in your state?

Yes, 56 percent; No, 36 percent; N/R, 6 percent.

Texas marine training facility nears start

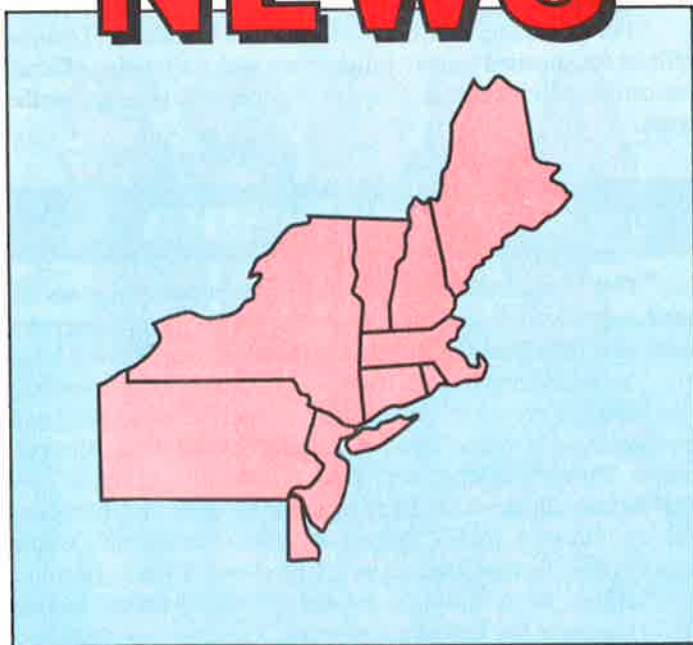
It's possible that the first training at the new Texas marine officer training academy could take place in 1991, although 1992 is a more probable date. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has signed a long-term lease with the Lower Colorado River Authority for a 800 acre tract at Lake Bastrop, near Bastrop, and construction documents are in the process of being finalized.

The new academy will include classrooms, range facilities, and extensive areas and facilities for boat handling instruction.

REGIONAL NEWS

Law enforcement agencies have a number of common requirements for new officers: physical and medical examinations, physical agility testing, psychological testing/profiles, and extensive background checks. In addition, each agency involved with boating law enforcement has its own set of basic qualifications and training requirements for its officers, as outlined in the reports from the four regions below.

NESBAC NEWS



Connecticut

Officers joining the Boating Safety Division and the Law Enforcement Division of the Fish and Wildlife Bureau must be 18 years old, and have a high school education plus four years experience in wildlife conservation, fisheries, farming, forestry or law enforcement, or must have a bachelors degree in environmental sciences, biological sciences or law enforcement. Training includes

the 14- to 16-week Connecticut Police Academy. Boating Safety Division Officers attend the Coast Guard's two week Yorktown School, and the state/UL/Coast Guard accident investigation school. Municipal officers attend either a 16 hour basic boating enforcement course or a 40 hour advanced course offered through the Boating Safety Division. Periodic training is provided in navigation, rescue techniques, alcohol enforcement, marine theft, etc. Recertification is mandatory for firearms training, first aid, CPR, in-service legal training (such as search and seizure), intoximeter use, and other basic law enforcement subjects. The division offers basic and advanced boating courses for municipal officers, and operating under the influence enforcement courses. "Operating under the influence" enforcement training will be heavily emphasized.

Delaware

Fish and Wildlife officers must be 21 years old and have a high school education. Most officers have a college degree in fisheries, wildlife or biology. Basic training is 23 weeks in a police academy. Officers are also sent to a variety of other state courses, ranging from wildlife identification to safe boating. In-service training includes fisheries law, boat handling, navigation, search and rescue, interrogation training and related job skills. Officers remain on trainee status for their first year out of academy. Training programs planned this year include rescue certification course for all officers, boarding procedures, legal issues, and fast water rescue. Certification in first aid and CPR is required, along with annual firearms qualification. The department is mulling the possibility of developing a marine firearms course.

District of Columbia

Harbor Branch police officers must be 21 years old as well as having had at least one year of experience as an officer with the District of Columbia Metropolitan police force. Training includes Coast Guard boat handling class, scuba certification, local waterways knowledge. Probation lasts one year. Additional training includes annual swim test, cold water survival, rough water and rapids, and under-ice diving (including working by touch and feel and returning to hole.) Emphasis this year will be on learning profiles of drug and contraband movement, and profiles of various illegal activities.

Maine

Wardens must be at least 20 years old, be a high school graduate, and have hunting, trapping, fishing and all-around woods-

man skills. Training begins with 16 week Maine Criminal Justice Academy. In-service training includes a wide variety of programs, including pursuit driving and operating under the influence enforcement. The Warden Service sends its officers to whatever applicable courses are offered through law enforcement schools. Training programs for this year will focus on "operating under the influence" apprehension, boating safety, and navigation skills. Apprehension of OUI boaters will be an area of special interest within the training sector.

Massachusetts

High school education is a requirement for a Fisheries, Wildlife and Environmental Law Enforcement officer. Training includes the 14-week Criminal Justice Training Academy, followed by five weeks of Department training including policies and procedures, environmental law, and boating law. In-service training includes 40 hours of training a year, (starting next year as a one-week academy) including CPR, firearms, First Responder (first aid), new laws and rulings, and job-related skills. Additional courses include a combat course and a night-firing course. Available programs range from stress management to report writing to women in law enforcement. Training programs planned include safety training, asbestos handling, boat accident investigation. Bi-monthly regional officer meetings include mini-courses on a wide variety of law enforcement topics, most recently safety programs on remote drug laboratories.

New Hampshire

Marine Patrol officers must be 18 years old, a high school graduate, and be a certified full time police officer in the state or certifiable within six months.

New officers are given 80 to 100 hours of classroom and 70 hours of on-the-water training before being assigned to ride with a veteran officer. At the successful conclusion of their first, trainee, season, officers are sent to the New Hampshire police academy.

Annual training includes legal updates, current hot topics, and certification in handcuffing, defense topics, batons and first aid. Marine Patrol officers are unarmed. There is heavy training in verbal diffusion. Eight hours of training annually are mandated, the patrol far exceeds this. Training emphasis for the coming year includes detection, apprehension and prosecution of impaired boaters.

New Jersey

New Marine Law Enforcement officers must be between 18 to 35 years old, and have a high school education. Training includes a 12-week police academy, followed by five weeks marine training, and four weeks in the field with a seasoned marine officer. Officers qualify on both outboard and inboard vessels. Four to five days of in-

service training are scheduled each year with training in juvenile justice, breathalyzer, field sobriety, and heavy duty rescue. Other programs include drug schools, customs courses, and a variety of other outside programs. Firearms training is scheduled two to three times annually, and annual recertification in baton use is mandated. Boat training is ongoing. On-station training in a variety of job-related skills is year-around. Pollution enforcement training is a high priority.

New York

There's not a statewide marine patrol agency in New York, with the New York Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation subsidizing local police marine patrols, plus having some active patrols through park police.

Marine officers must be 21 years old, high school graduate, and either full or part time with a police agency in New York. Training includes a 35-hour basic marine law enforcement school, with additional courses available in advanced marine law enforcement, accident reporting and impaired boater enforcement. The agency is now in the process of forming a cooperative working agreement with the Coast Guard Auxiliary to instruct police units in small boat handling.

For the coming year, the main thrust will be training of marine officers for impaired boaters, enforcement with the training officers just certified for the course. This will include sobriety testing on the water.

Pennsylvania

Fish Commission enforcement officers must be 21 years old and have a high school education, and most have a minimum of 2 years of college. Training includes 14-week municipal police training, plus an additional four to five weeks of specialized schooling, plus 25 to 30 weeks of field training. Specialized training will increase to eight weeks. Training includes boat handling, firearms, batons, flashlight defense, and police officers driving course. Annual 40 hours in-service training includes recertification/qualification with firearms, batons, first aid. Available courses include boat accident investigation, instructors in CPR, first aid, baton, firearms, handcuffing, 5-cell flashlight defense. Mandated classes include AIDS education and hazardous materials. Right to know classes are mandated this year. Area of emphasis this year includes training in alcohol enforcement techniques.

Rhode Island

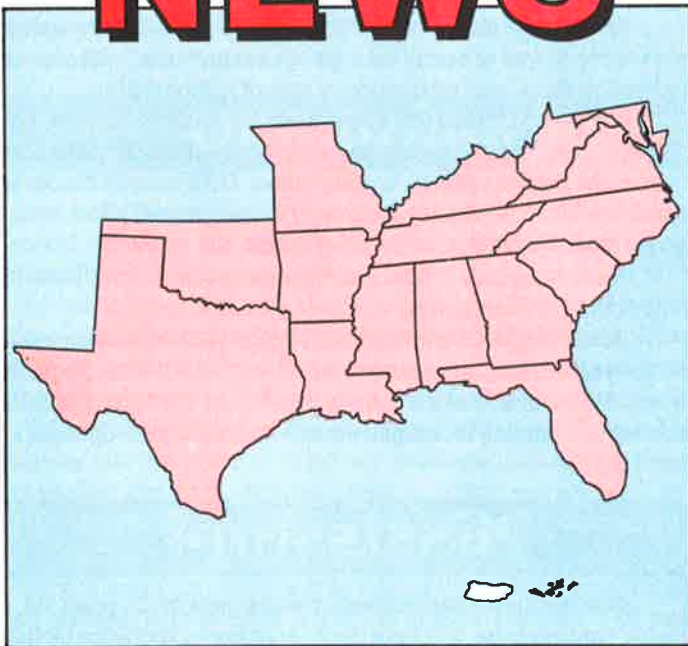
Dept. of Environmental Management enforcement officers must be at least 18 years old and have a high school education, while most have a college degree. Basic training is at Municipal Police Academy. Regular training for officers includes boating accident

investigation, boating law and basics, equipment, stops, courtesy and firmness with public, towing and rescue, defensive driving, criminal law, and use of force. Officers receive several hundred hours of post-academy training. Summer auxiliary officers must take 40 hour municipal academy-approved boating enforcement course. Officers work closely with other jurisdictions in training.

Vermont

State Police officers must be 20 years old and have a high school education. In addition to the 14-week Vermont Police Academy, permanent Marine Division officers must complete three weeks of specialized Marine Division training and have 36 working days in field with a veteran officer. Marine Division officers are on probation for their first year. Field training includes work with three veteran officers. There is a mandatory 30 hours in-service training each year. Advanced training includes boat handler instructors school and boating accident investigation. With changes in the state's boating while intoxicated law, all officers will recertify on infrared testing equipment as part of a heavy emphasis on BWI enforcement training. Training in the new marine toilet regulations is also planned. Training for part-time officers has been revamped; they must now complete a one-week initial school, have 60 to 80 hours field training, as well as another hundred hours of study.

SSBLA NEWS



Alabama

Basics include 21 years, high school graduate. Training starts with a seven week Alabama Peace Officers Standard Academy, followed by seven weeks of marine police basic training and eight weeks of field training. There is a quarterly requirement for one hour of classroom and four hours of range training with handguns and shotguns. A specialized marine firearms course was started a year ago, beginning with dry firing, a live firing course, and shoot - don't shoot targets from boats. Additional training will vary from accident investigation to field sobriety, and will be two to three hours quarterly. Annual one-week in-service training includes basic and emergency swimming, first aid, and a variety of enforcement-related courses. Areas of emphasis this year will include basic boating, a one-week boating accident reconstruction, and field sobriety training. The latter two will be open to other jurisdictions. Programs will also include firearms training including retention, officer survival including "creek survival" and a supervisory skills program.

Arkansas

Game and Fish Commission enforcement officers must be 21 years old, and have a high school education. Training includes 327 hours, 10 week basic training at Game and Fish training center, 96 hours training in field with an experienced officer, one year probation with evaluation, then certified as specialized law enforcement officer. Basic training includes law enforcement, hunter and boating safety, and conservation law. In service training includes conservation courses, firearms training, CPR, law enforcement updates, and other job skills matters. Training emphasis will be on boating law enforcement, boat accident investigation, and training officers for boating enforcement.

Florida

Game and Fresh Water Commission

Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission enforcement officers must be 19 years old, and have a high school education, one year enforcement experience or two years public contact (two years military can be substituted for law enforcement experience). Training includes 520 hours basic training, plus 280 specialized training and nine weeks of field officer training. Minimum of 40 hours retraining every four years, is required with most courses coming through Criminal Justice and Training. Officers must qualify with firearms twice a year. In-service training for 1990 includes rules of the road, navigation, with emphasis on operating under the influence enforcement training.

Marine Patrol

Marine Patrol officers must be 19 years old and have a high school education, plus either two years public contact experience, 30

hours college credit, two years of military, or one year of sworn law enforcement experience (Coast Guard training acceptable). Applicants must agree not to use tobacco products throughout career. Training includes basic police academy, followed by eight weeks of field training. Academy training includes state and federal boating law, marine resources, boat operation, navigation, specialized marine firearms course, low and high risk boarding. First year is under probation. Florida requires 40 hours training every four years, Marine Patrol has 40 hours (one week) in-service training annually. this may include tactical police driving, vessel felony stops, plus normal updates on new laws, enforcement, certifications.

Georgia

A new applicant with the Georgia Game and Fish Division must be 21 years old and have a high school education.

The training program begins with six weeks of basic law enforcement training, followed by 10 weeks of specialized training which includes boating safety and wildlife law enforcement.

Officers are on probationary status for 12 months during on the job training in various areas around the state. There is a specific check-off list of training officers to follow while the probationer experiences the differing conditions around the state.

While there is a mandated 20 hours per year training set for every officer, as a matter of department policy every officer has a minimum of 4 hours of in-service training per month. This could range from reviews of case law to updates on search and seizure to hands-on skill training. Officers may participate in virtually any law enforcement oriented training program, time and funding permitting. Every officer goes through first aid and firearms training annually. Areas of training emphasis this year will include field sobriety testing (including refresher training), mechanics of arrest, training in the newly-adopted ASP baton, and boat accident investigations. The department has started scheduling officers through a three-day drivers training course.

Kentucky

Enforcement officers must be 21 years old and have a high school education, plus one year of police experience. Training includes basic police academy, plus field training handled by area supervisors. This includes a working knowledge of boating laws, boat operation, and related job skills. In-service training of 40 hours a year includes first aid, CPR, policy and procedure updates, legal, firearms, and baton instruction. Weapons qualification is twice a year both on a range and out of a boat. Advanced training includes boat accident reconstruction, river rescue school. At press time the agency was in the process of developing the 1990 boating safety training program. Heavy emphasis on alcohol enforcement training, including detection and operating under influence is planned. All training programs are videotaped for officer evaluation.

Louisiana

Boating Safety officers must be high school graduates, with college effectively required, as well as having two years of law enforcement experience. Training includes 10-weeks Louisiana State Police Academy, followed by two weeks orientation and a minimum of six months, and as a rule, a full year of probationary training in the field. Until POST-certified, officers may not carry a firearm, but certification is required with handguns, shotguns and rifles. The Law Enforcement Division has developed a marine firearms course, and is getting this POST-certified. Annual in-service training includes department policy, new laws, defense tactics, pressure point management, marine officer survival, and search and rescue. The Division has trained officers from around the country in horizontal gaze nystagmus, and will complete certifying its own officers this year in a crackdown on operators under the influence

Maryland

An applicant joining the Maryland Natural Resources Police must be 21 years old (17 1/2 to enter the cadet program), must have a high school diploma or equivalent, and must attend a 23 week Police Training Academy. Basic training consists of 118 hours on topics related to natural resources, 72 hours of instruction in seamanship and navigation and small boat handling, Maryland hunter education, 35 hours of emergency vehicle operation, a continuous physical fitness training program, human relations and sociological understanding, stress management and interpersonal communications skills, and a state-sanctioned emergency medical technician course.

Officers are also required to complete the U.S. Power Squadron Course as well as a certified apprenticeship course, with courses tailored to the officer's expertise or area of responsibility.

Refresher or recertification programs include the First Responder certification course, the emergency medical technician course, the firearms course, among others. Officers may choose to specialize in areas such as background investigations, pilots, emergency medical services, or a host of others.

Each Maryland officer must annually complete at least 18 hours of in-service training.

Areas of special emphasis the agency intends to concentrate on this year are hazardous materials and drug interdiction. Requests from officers for in-service training they would like to have include boating and hunting investigations and boat theft investigations.

Mississippi

Boating Safety enforcement officers must be 21 years old, a high school graduate, and have three years work experience includ-

ing one in law enforcement, including boating and water, game and fish, wildlife or fisheries conservation or management, hunter education, forestry, marine resources and seafood. Related education above high school can be substituted on a one to one basis for work experience. Training includes 10 weeks basic law enforcement, and four weeks of agency policy and procedures, two days on the water boat handling, and substantial medical training. Firearms certification is every year. Available classes include boat accident investigation (SSBLA or UL), drug enforcement, boat handling and a wide variety of enforcement related schools including such areas as photography. Regular in-service training includes case law, new laws, and department policies, as well as first aid recertification.

North Carolina

Wildlife officers must be 21 years old, and have a high school education. Training includes 15 week basic law enforcement academy, including health maintenance and physical fitness program for all Wildlife personnel. Training includes conservation law, game and fish law, and small boat handling. Officers have from six to nine months training in the field under a training officer.

In-service training is being expanded, and includes laws of arrest, new legislation, attorney general questions, and other policy and procedure matters. Training is on a district level, and includes defensive driving and defensive tactics. Supervisory schools are for sergeants and up. All instructors must renew certificates annually. Firearms qualification is annual with service firearms and shotguns. There are plans to expand firearms training from boats. Boat handling and skills training is at the district level, and is emphasized. Advanced training includes boat handling, boat accident reconstruction, and a variety of programs through the training academy. Flight training is available to serving officers.

Oklahoma

Lake Patrol officers must be 21 years old, and have a high school education and a senior lifesaving certificate. Training includes basic police academy within first year, plus extensive skills and training program for Lake Patrol officers. This could include correspondence classes, and five to six weeks under training officer, and includes everything from boating law enforcement, to vessel operation to writing a citation. Division is putting together plans for a full-time Lake Patrol academy. All divisions have 40 hours of in-service training a year. The agency developed Emergency Vessel Operation Course I, including pursuit, officer survival, etc., as a basic, and is now offering EVOC II. Training programs include First Responder, and are looking at updating EMT certification. The Patrol is heavily involved in drug interdiction, with training emphasis planned. Also planned is training in pollution laws, with mandated marine sanitation device laws.

Puerto Rico

Rangers Corps personnel must be between 18 and 35 years old at the time of hiring, and have a college degree in natural sciences or other related areas. Training involves three months at the State Police Academy, followed by three months specialized training in a DNR school emphasizing conservation, boating, and recreation-oriented laws, policies and procedures. In addition, officers attend a series of seminars describing the special laws and requirements of those other agencies whose laws and regulations are enforced by the Rangers. For example, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service offers training in endangered species enforcement. Eight hours of in-service training is mandated each month, either in the form of outside agency seminars or in-house refresher training or techniques such as citation writing, search and seizure, rescue updates, court matters, or other basic law enforcement skills. Firearms qualification is required annually, as well as recertification with batons and in first aid and CPR. An outdoor recreation program focused on lakes is being formed, with a broad range of training required. In addition, the Corps is forming an undercover unit for endangered species enforcement, also requiring a heavy training emphasis.

South Carolina

Boating Division officers must be 21 years old and a high school graduate. Training begins with the South Carolina Justice Academy, followed by five weeks wildlife basics program. Training includes fish and game law, fisheries, boating, and fieldwork. Courses available to officers include boating safety, accident investigation (through SSBLA, Underwriters Laboratories, and the State of Louisiana), community relations, juvenile justice, vehicle behavior, domestic violence. Officers must take at least one advanced course a year, and these are four hours each. Annual requirements include firearms qualification, CPR, and physical fitness. Training courses this year will include basic boating, wildlife basic program, radar and loran in law enforcement, and commercial fisheries marine law enforcement using modern plotting equipment.

Tennessee

All Wildlife Resources Agency officers must have a college degree in biology or wildlife management. Training includes eight weeks basic law enforcement training followed by six months on the job training with an experienced officer. Training is offered in boating under the influence enforcement. All officers have 40 hours of annual in-service training, involving law review, officer survival, stress management, accident investigation, updates on new laws and regulations, and boating under the influence. Training this year will include vehicular assault as regards boating. In addition to standardized firearms training, officers will have boat handling and updates on noise testing this year.

Texas

Water Safety Department enforcement officers must be 21 years old and have a minimum of 60 hours of college. Training involves 1,000 hours over 5 1/2 months, with basic peace officer, game law, boat handling, boating law, EMT, and firearms training. This is followed by six months of probation under a field supervisor, with a performance plan and a set of standards which must be reached. Probation may be extended. Once out of the academy, officers will have 40 hours of in-service training each year. In addition to normal law enforcement topics this includes eight hours of handgun, shotgun and rifle training and qualification, as well as first aid certification. In-service training may vary, with verbal judo emphasized last year, but will include case law, new legislation, and related topics.

Virgin Islands

Applicants to become an officer with the Virgin Island Dept. of Planning and Natural Resources, Bureau of Environmental Enforcement, must be between 18 and 30 years old, a 12th grade graduate, have good local knowledge (land and sea), have boat handling skills, and have knowledge of local wildlife and fisheries. Basic training involves completion of the Virgin Islands Police Academy, a 16 week course, plus six weeks of DPNR training.

Training is offered in boating safety and accident investigations, National Marine Fisheries (federal fisheries law), and basic skills and seamanship. Refresher or recertification training, includes an 80 hour peace officer refresher course offered through the Virgin Islands Police Department. National Marine Fisheries offers refresher and update training. Officers are scheduled for 16 hours of refresher training per month, with topics selected as necessary depending on circumstances.

For this year, there will be basic skills and seamanship classes available to DPNR officers and the general public sponsored by the Coast Guard Auxiliary, and a boating skills program offered through the Virgin Islands Power Squadron.

Areas of special emphasis training over the next year will include boating safety, mooring management, and fisheries enforcement, both local and federal.

Virginia

Boat Section enforcement officers must be 21 years old and have a high school education, as well as legally able to carry a firearm. Basic law enforcement academy is 13 weeks, followed by three weeks orientation in Game and Inland Fisheries policies and procedures and 6 months probation with on the job training. Regular training and qualifications include firearms, first aid, legal matters, procedures and policies. In-service training is 40 hours every two years. Plans are to take officer training to open water, tidal, currents,

rivers, and rough water conditions. Field sobriety enforcement education ranks high. The agency is looking at developing a training program on drug enforcement, not only on tidal waters but on local waters.

West Virginia

DNR officers must be between 18 to 40 years old, and have a college degree in natural sciences, law enforcement or criminology. Applicants may substitute two years of military or law enforcement experience. Training begins with 496 hour basic law enforcement academy and three weeks of orientation. Officers must have a minimum of eight hours training at academy each year, which could be on intoxilator, fingerprinting, etc., or other related law enforcement job skills. Advanced training includes motorboat accident investigation schools, boating schools, or other job-related courses. The agency is looking at staging a 40 hour supervisory course, and more training in motorboat accident investigation procedures and techniques this year

NCIABLA NEWS



Illinois

Conservation enforcement officers must be 21 years old, and have a college degree, four years of law enforcement, or a combina-

tion of the two. Training includes 800 hours, 10 weeks of Illinois Training Board training and then 10 weeks of conservation enforcement (including basics such as boat handling), plus 16 weeks of field training. An officer's first year is under trainee status, followed by three months of probation as a conservation law officer. Instruction includes defense tactics, firearms training four times a year, health and fitness, annual updates on boating under the influence enforcement, and specialized schools depending on area and specialization. This could include additional boating safety courses for officers on Lake Michigan, Boating Under the Influence enforcement, or accident investigation (either as an investigator or as an instructor.)

Indiana

DNR enforcement officers must be 21 years old, and have an AA degree or 60 hours toward a BA from a liberal arts or science college.

Schooling begins with 325 hours of conservation law enforcement. Within the first year of employment, officers attend the 480-hour Indiana Law Enforcement Academy. Officers spend the first full year under probationary status under the supervision of a field training officer.

Training is concentrated in work areas. Officers assigned to Lake Michigan will receive more boat handling and seamanship classes and more training in fisheries law and more open water safety and rescue classes. Typical areas of specialization may include scuba, river rescue, firearms instructors, or breath analysis. The department is working on a marine firearms course, as well as first responder training. One-week annual in-service training includes tactical communications, verbal judo, rabies and lyme disease, and Indian artifacts and burial grounds.

Officers must qualify with handguns and shotguns four times a year.

Major training emphasis this year will include a boat accident investigation school in June and a pair of river rescue programs - calendared for July and September.

The department plans a strong emphasis on emergency vehicle operation.

Iowa

Fish and Wildlife enforcement officers must be between 21 and 65 and be a high school graduate (virtually all officers have a college degree). They must complete the Iowa law enforcement academy, followed by six months probation. Training following the academy includes 12 weeks of in-service schooling, with two weeks on recreation safety officer duties. Ongoing training includes hazardous waste spill response, boat handling, water survival, firearms, baton tactics, self defense, active countermeasures, weapons retention, sexual harassment, and drug-free environment. The bureau exceeds the mandated 10-hour annual training requirement with a minimum of a two-day in-service program for all officers. The

bureau is working out a contract with a large city police agency for active countermeasures course for all officers, including liability, verbalization, directives, and alternatives to physical measures. All officers are being trained in horizontal gaze nystagmus, with increased emphasis on operating while intoxicated enforcement.

Kansas

Wildlife and Parks enforcement officers must have a college degree in wildlife management or closely related field. Training begins with eight week law enforcement academy, then on the job training with a seasoned officer. Probation lasts a minimum of six months, with on-the-job training including agency policies and procedures. Firearms qualification is quarterly. Additional training is a minimum of 40 hours annually, including cold water survival, low water dam survival, hypothermia, plus normal police training. The agency is looking seriously at boating under the influence enforcement. Because of manpower and time restrictions, the agency is now cutting back the number of training hours available to officers.

Michigan

DNR enforcement officers must be 21 years old and have a high school education. Officers must pass the 10 week basic police training program and the one week DNR orientation program plus a year of probation spent under the supervision of a field officer.

Supplementary training includes firearms training, boat handling, and an automobile driving school.

The department encourages a wide range of optional training programs, including boat accident investigations, marine law enforcement, Yorktown, the FBI Management Academy, training specialists, or operating under the influence training.

Annual refresher schools average about one week. The programs are different each year, depending on what subjects may need emphasis. Firearms qualification is formally once a year, but every officer goes through four training sessions a year. There is some consideration of a marine firearms program.

There is an annual marine training school, open to DNR officers as well as county officers. This covers basic boat handling and statutes, and with its certified instructors, is in effect a mini-Yorktown. There is a second session, which is a refresher course for veteran officers. It covers current issues, statutory changes, enforcement, and includes some hands-on training.

Minnesota

Conservation officers in Minnesota have to be peace officers. In addition, they have three weeks of formal training, plus six months of training in the field, transferred to three or four different areas in the state under training officers. In service training includes

basic boating enforcement school, basic skills schools, policy and procedure updates, annual firearms qualifications, fast water rescue schools, boating while intoxicated schools, motorboat noise enforcement and training. While conservation officers do not investigate accidents, (these are under jurisdiction of sheriffs), several officers have been to accident investigation school.

Missouri

State Water Patrol officers must be 21 years old, and a high school graduate. Training begins with the 800 hour, 21 week Jefferson City Academy of the state patrol, followed by eight weeks in the field with a training officer. There is five days of in-service training required each year, involving new laws and rulings and a wide variety of enforcement matters. There are also annual courses on batons, firearms, and first aid. Major emphasis will continue on boating while under the influence enforcement training, along with increased training in drug enforcement and criminal investigation techniques. Boating accident investigator schools will be offered this year.

Nebraska

Game and Parks enforcement officers must be 21 years old, and have a high school education, as well as a general knowledge of hunting, fishing and boating laws, and basic law enforcement procedures. Within one year of being hired officers attend the 12-week Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Academy. No other formal courses other than on the job training are required. All officers qualify with a firearm twice a year. Courses offered through the academy range from pursuit driving to self defense. Training emphasis this year will be on boating while intoxicated enforcement.

North Dakota

Water Safety enforcement officers must be 21 years old and have a college degree. Training includes seven weeks at the state law enforcement center, which includes EMT and refresher courses. Officers must qualify annually with sidearms and shotguns. Officers are on probation for their first nine months, working with a supervisor. Officers must have 40 hours of training a year, including firearms and first aid. Training includes boat accident reconstruction and alcohol enforcement schools.

Ohio

Division of Watercraft enforcement officers must be 21 years old, have three months training and/or experience in public relations and one month training in swimming. Training includes 540-hour

Peace Officers Academy. The division required 78 hours of in-service training last year: 30 hours in the spring, 24 hours in the fall, and 24 hours for qualifications. Available in-service training included instructor training, ice rescue, river rescue recertification, basic river rescue, instructor river rescue, new officer law enforcement training, water rescue/victim extrication, instructor sailing, and CPR, plus additional practice with batons, handcuffing, self defense, swimming and red handle gun scenarios. In-service training ranges from Miranda updates to radar certification and river paddling skills. There are 8 to 12 hours of marine firearms training scheduled each year. Special emphasis training this year will include racial awareness sensitivity, sexual harassment sensitivity, and deadly force decision making.

Ontario

Ontario Provincial Police requirements include two years of experience with an Ontario police agency before applying for marine training. Training consists of an intensive eight day training course covering navigation, charting, Canada's shipping act, and legal standards. Class culminates in a night navigation exercise through a maze of islands. There is no supplementary or advanced training, beyond normal police training and qualifications. There is consideration of building a boat accident reconstruction program into the training at some future date. At present, there is no requirement to report boating accidents.

South Dakota

Game, Fish, and Parks enforcement officers must be 21 years old, and have a college degree in wildlife or fisheries management or related field. Training includes 6-week law enforcement standards course and one year of probation with on the job training under supervision. Time spent with training officers can vary a good deal with background and ability. The Division of Wildlife is eyeing setting a minimum number of hours of training annually, and is seeking to fill the post of training officer as part of this. Basic in-service training includes firearms, new laws, first aid, and work skills. Supplemental training includes cold water survival and river rescue, including some cross-training with Corps of Engineers rangers on the Missouri River. Training emphasis this year will be on accident investigations and alcohol identification. There is an increasing need for and public demand for ice safety information and training.

Wisconsin

DNR enforcement officers must have a high school education but for all practical purposes must have a four year college degree in wildlife biology or a related field.

Basic training consists of 400 hours of Wisconsin Dept. of

Justice training, followed by 400 hours of Dept. of Natural Resources training and one year of recruit training under the supervision of a trainer warden. Boat handling and marine firearms training are included within the DNR training.

Training includes law reviews, snowmobile law, special investigations, air pollution, citations, lifesaving, boating law, boating exercises, firearms on the water, hazardous materials, commercial fishing regulation, and charter boat regulation. Every officer must have 40 hours of training annually, along with district and area training. One of the major areas of training emphasis over the next year will be boating under the influence enforcement, along with programs in law enforcement boat handling and marine firearms training. Areas high on the list of anticipated training will include hands-on OWI training with intoxicated subjects as well as further marine firearms training.

WSBAA NEWS



Arizona

Officers joining the Arizona Game and Fish Department must be at least 21 years old and have a college degree in a wildlife-related field. Basic training includes a 440 hour peace officer academy, ten weeks of post-academy training, along with further work under a field training officer. Included in the ten-week post-academy training is a 70 hour course on boating laws, stolen boat and accident investigations, operating under the influence enforcement, sound meter certification, water safety and survival, boat and motor

maintenance, misdemeanor and felony stops and arrest techniques, basic boat handling and approach procedures, and a firing course from patrol craft at both floating and shoreline targets.

Required is a 24-hour G&F advanced officer training course every three years, including defensive tactics, baton training, shoot-don't shoot scenarios, and search and seizure updates. Officers must qualify with firearms twice annually.

A 50 hour Watercraft Law Enforcement and Survival Tactics course will be offered this fall.

Operating Under the Influence enforcement will be a major priority on the waterways this season. Additional training will be offered in horizontal gaze nystagmus and other field sobriety testing procedures.

California

The California Dept. of Boating and Waterways is an administrative program which works with the vast majority of counties within the state in developing boating officer standards programs. Officers must be 18 years old, and have a high school education. Initial training is the 520 hour law enforcement training academy. The department offers a 40 hour basic water-oriented law enforcement course, looking at boating laws and legislation. There is a 24 hour advanced officers boating course, slated every two years, offering an update on new laws, case laws, technology and techniques. The department either coordinates or sponsors all boating courses for officers in or out of state. In addition, the department offers a host of other training, with 40 hour classes (each) offered in water rescue, enforcement, basic boating skills, firefighting, rescue boat handling, and navigation. Boating and alcohol enforcement, as an example, is normally offered in the spring. A water rescue program is slated for this May.

The department would like to develop an officer safety course including conduct in adverse situations and methods to avoid confrontation situations. There is a fair amount of drug movement by boats in California, and this area will have additional training emphasis.

Colorado

Basic requirements for an officer joining the Colorado Division of Parks and Outdoor recreation is a four year college degree plus one year experience in a related field, and a minimum age of 21.

Basic training is a 12 week State Law Enforcement Basic Training Academy, followed by assignment to an immediate supervisor for 8 months of on the job training, working both within and outside of their park boundaries. They are on probation throughout this time.

All officers must complete a minimum of 40 hours of in-service training a year. Typically, this includes a review of case law, statutory law, day and night firearms, arrest control, and defense

tactics, plus assorted job skills.

This year one of the major training efforts relating to health safety, specifically relating to law enforcement safety when it comes to AIDS. There will also be training on officer survival skills in the domestic violence scene. The agency is putting together a boating while intoxicated course which will start with the basics and run through sophisticated concepts. This will include certification with testing equipment as well as shoreline sobriety examinations. The state's implied consent law went into effect July 1, 1989, requiring a substantial amount of training effort.

The major thrust of training this year will emphasize drug recognition including symptoms and tests. Firearms training will include transition to 9 mm semiautomatic sidearms.

Hawaii

Officer training in the State of Hawaii is proceeding but the potential exists for any or all of the training standards to be revised. The state is combining law enforcement operations within a new Department of Public Safety, and the marine patrol will move to that agency or the Department of Land and Resources from the current Harbors Division.

Officers must be a high school graduate, have a year of law enforcement experience, have a year of boat operation experience, and be a resident of Hawaii. Officers are utilizing a variety of training programs offered through federal, state and local law enforcement agencies: CPR, report writing, firearms training, legal aspects, defense tactics.

As the direction and thrust of the new DPS becomes clear, the marine patrol could possibly begin establishing a formalized program of training officers, and could develop a class to establish a cadre of trainers.

The unit is providing basic training to its members, before sending them on to formal schools.

Idaho

Idaho through its Dept. of Parks and Recreation does not employ boating enforcement officers. IDPR provides training, guidance and partial funding to County Sheriffs for deputies to work as boating enforcement officers. IDPR provides an annual 40 hour basic training course for marine deputies, including equipment and operational laws, boat handling, and boarding procedures. Advanced sessions at the annual school include boating accident reconstruction, boater sobriety enforcement, and search and rescue, for those who have completed the basic course. In addition to the Idaho Boating Law Enforcement Course, deputies are sent to the UL boat accident reconstruction seminar and the national boating safety course. Several certified boating safety instructor workshops are scheduled throughout the year. Emphasis will remain on providing enforcement training to deputies, with important areas of concern

being boating sobriety, accident investigation, and public education and public relations techniques.

Montana

Fish, Parks and Wildlife enforcement officers must be 20 years old and have a college degree in wildlife biology or a closely related field. Training includes the 10 week basic Peace Officers Law Enforcement Academy, 3 to 4 weeks in-house training starting with policies and procedures indoctrination and progressing to a lake or wildlife management area for hands-on programs. Probationary status lasts one year, and may be extended. Officers who completed law enforcement training in another state may take a refresher course and qualification exam rather than the full academy. Regional training ranges from interview interrogation to electronic surveillance, plus quarterly firearms qualification. The out of area training that had been limited by collective bargaining agreement, now is available. The department will have horizontal gaze nystagmus training this year, realizing public knowledge of the program is a powerful deterrent.

Nevada

Basic Wildlife officer qualifications include a college degree in wildlife management, biology, or criminal justice, and be 21 years old. Training is 12 weeks at a Peace Officers Standards and Training academy, followed by up to nine months of training under a field training officer, including firearms, batons, handcuffing, and other job skills.

Division of Wildlife requires a minimum of 32 hours of annual in-service training, and usually schedules 16 hours of defense tactics, 16 hours of tactical handcuffing, and 16 hours of weapon retention annually. Officers must qualify seminally with service weapons, and most do so quarterly.

Additional training includes 12 hours of watercraft officer survival and firearms, marine theft investigation, and sonar search programs. Training programs down the road could include a course on investigations, an expanded marine theft program, an improved boat handling course for officers, and a noise abatement course.

New Mexico

New Mexico Boating Safety and Law Enforcement officers must be 21 years old, and have two or more years experience in construction, park management, or natural resources, plus six months in natural resource management. Basic training includes 400 hours of New Mexico Law Enforcement Academy, followed by two weeks orientation. There is a requirement for at least 40 hours of in-service training every two years, and qualification with sidearms semi-annually. In service training normally includes one boating

safety meeting and one park management law enforcement meeting annually.

Over the next year, plans are to develop a standardized boating enforcement and training program, shifting from an on-the-job program to a standardized and accredited program.

Oregon

Oregon farms out marine enforcement. Law enforcement officers must be 21 years old, have a high school education, and pass the nine-week basic police academy training. Helpers or part time employees, such as school teachers with summer employment, do not have to be certified. A five day basic marine academy stresses boating safety and law enforcement, including one day on boat handling from trailering to boarding. Police agencies have in-house training on weapons, first aid, etc. The Oregon Marine Board offers classes in boating alcohol, improved sobriety testing, boating accident investigation, and refresher training. The OMB will require recertification for anyone out of the field for more than 2 years. Major emphasis will be on operating under the influence enforcement training, and a program and financial management course for managers and sheriffs. The State Marine Board is setting guidelines for equipment and certification for six-packs (less than six-passenger vessels) and will offer training for coastal counties and police on these guidelines.

Utah

Parks and Recreation officers must be 21 years old, and have a college degree in a related field. Training begins with Peace Officers Standards and Training course, followed by hands-on training with a park superintendent. The Division is in the process of setting up a week-long orientation involving boating, parks and recreation laws. Annual 40 hours of inservice training includes semiannual firearms training, 4 hours baton training, 4 hours arrest control, 6 hours advanced first aid, 4 hours CPR, and an annual spring boating law update. Officers this year will be certified in noise control enforcement. The division would like to develop a marine firearms course, but presently does not have facilities.

Washington

Washington Parks and Recreation Commission serves as a boating resource to other jurisdictions, offering training and support. Marine officers are from the ranks of law enforcement officers, including reserve officers. Boat training includes a 40 hour basic marine law enforcement course, and a 20 hour boat accident investigation course. There is consideration of developing an annual refresher/retraining class, or more advanced classes. The agency offers training courses such as an eight hour boating and boating safety class to local, state and national park rangers. The agency

coordinates courses offered by local agencies, and offers assistance in course content. It has a cooperative role with the state Dept. of Fisheries water patrol, Dept. of Wildlife, Parks and Recreation and others involved with water activities. Many agencies mount boating programs with reserve officers, who can not afford the time to take basic marine law enforcement class. WPRC is developing a local training program to reach reserve officers.

Wyoming

Watercraft Safety/Special Enforcement Game Division officers must have a four year college degree. Based on past history, the applicant who makes it through the initial screening process will have a three- to five year waiting period before a job opening will occur. There are temporary positions that open up. These start with 120 hours of game warden orientation and 80 hours of watercraft law enforcement training. Within the first year of obtaining temporary employment, basic law enforcement training academy is required.

The state mandates 40 hours of in-service training for all permanent and temporary officers every two years, a level routinely exceeded. Programs this year will include 8 hours on watercraft and 15 hours of public contact, as well as refreshers on search and seizure, plus first aid recertification, night firearms, search and seizure, arrest and control, and legal updates.

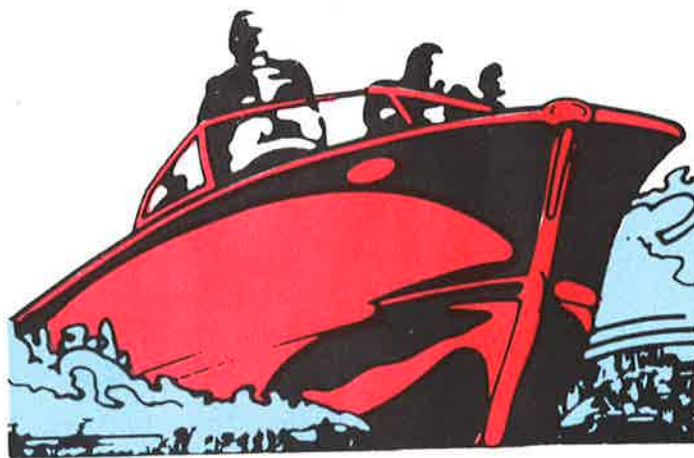
Officers may attend interrogation, firearms and forensics schools. There has been a spate of interest in dealing with Satanic cults, a growing problem in isolated rural areas.

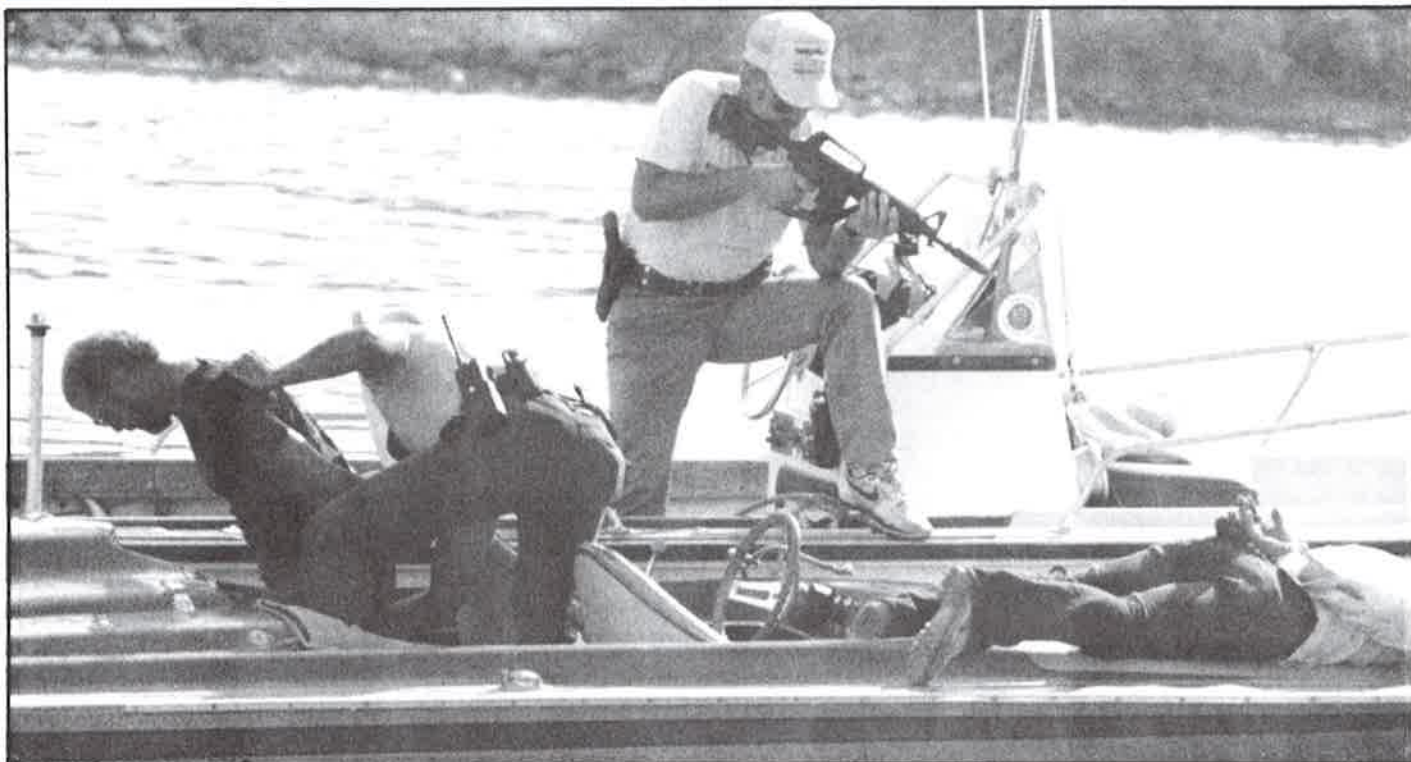
Most officers are commissioned by both the state and federal agencies, so follow the federal guidelines of qualifying twice a year with handguns, shotguns and rifles.

In addition to the 80 hour basic boating law course mandated for all officers, there is a 20 hour refresher course on boating laws.

Classes are split about 50 - 50 between classroom and hands-on experience.

One of the major areas downstream will be increased training in field sobriety tests which can be used in court.





The Arizona Watercraft Law Enforcement and Officer Survival Course includes scenarios on high-risk felony arrests on the water.

Arizona offers watercraft law enforcement courses

Hands on is the name of the game for the intensive Watercraft Law Enforcement and Officer Survival Course calendered in Arizona this fall. The course was designed for enforcement officers within the Law Enforcement Branch of the Arizona Game and Fish Department, and is jointly offered to all Arizona police officers involved in boating law enforcement.

If space is available, enrollment will be opened to boating enforcement officers from outside the state, according to Tim Wade, Boating Enforcement Coordinator of the Wildlife Management Division and the state's boating law administrator.

Based on the successful course offered last year, training ranges from the basics of trailer-launching of marine enforcement vessels, extends to survival swimming and related skills, and includes scenarios on high-risk felony stops on the water.

"This is a hands-on, practical course," Wade stressed.

Jurisdictions seeking further information about the course or registration should contact Wade: 2222 West Greenway Road, Phoenix, AZ 85023, telephone (602) 942-3000.

Looking Ahead

National Boating Education Seminar:

March 3-7
Holiday Inn, Orlando FL

SSBLA Conference:

April 7-11
Hilton Inn, Hot Springs, AR

National Water Safety Congress:

April 22-25
Parkway Hilton, Dallas, TX

NESBAC Conference:

June 17-21
Tara Hyannis Hotel, Hyannis, MA

NCIABLA Conference

July 30 - August 2
Sugarloaf Resort,
Travers City, MI

Back Cover

The Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission has placed eight new powerboats in service as part of an effort to make Florida's waterways safer for the increasing number of people who use them. The Sailfish model boats feature a center console, T-top, 225 horsepower motor and other special equipment.

A Job Well Done

This series recognizes boating safety personnel for excellence in the performance of their jobs. A good teacher, a helpful law enforcement officer, or an officer who through quick thinking,

decisive action, or, sometimes, personal risk rescues someone in distress, is recognized for a job well done.

On December 16, 1989, three men and a six year old child set out for a day of duck hunting on Maryland's Potomac River. While attempting to anchor their vessel, the anchor line became fouled in the engine's propeller and disabled the boat. The vessel was helplessly tossed about in three-foot seas and winds exceeding 25 knots. The waves crested the vessel's stern and soon the boat was swamped and capsized. The child had been placed on the superstructure, and was clear of the boat when it capsized. The three men were briefly trapped under the vessel, entangled in camo-netting covering the entire boat.

The four individuals clung to the overturned boat in 32 degree water temperature and a wind chill factor of minus 15 degrees. Only the child was wearing a personal flotation device. One man, recovering a PFD floating beside the capsized boat, swam 150 yards to shore, then ran one half mile to a private residence and summoned assistance.

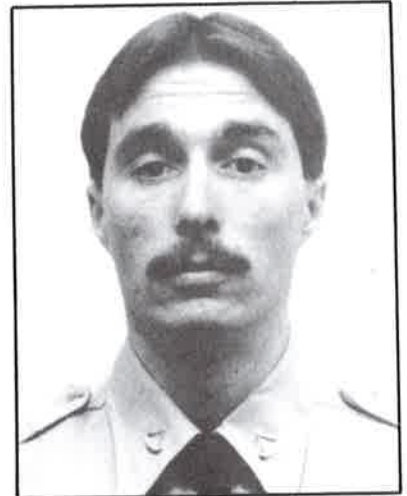
Maryland Natural Resources Police Corporal Stephen R. Vaughn



Cpl. Stephen R. Vaughn

and Officer First Class Brett H. Brinkley received the call to provide assistance. Eleven miles away from the accident scene, these officers arrived 26 minutes later despite the heavy sea conditions and extremely blustery weather. Ice formed on both themselves and their patrol vessel as they made this most treacherous ride. Their sheer determination caused them to reach the victims in time to prevent their inevitable death. Officer Brinkley immediately wrapped the child in his patrol jacket and held him against his body as he and Cpl. Vaughn administered first aid and transported the victims to awaiting emergency medical personnel. Although suffering from hypothermia, all victims survived. These officers are credited with saving the lives of both men and the child.

Cpl. Vaughn is a 16 year veteran of the agency. Officer Brinkley graduated from the Maryland Natural Resources Policy Academy in July 1988. He has worked with Cpl. Vaughn since graduation.



Officer Brett Brinkley

Commendations

The Maryland Natural Resources Police has a policy of honoring individuals for "their outstanding performance in a life-threatening situation."

Rob Broseker, Jon Gorgione, and James Brown were presented certifications by Col Jack Taylor for a rescue effort. The certificates stated: "On June 14, 1989, while cruising near Cedar Point on the Severn River, Rob Broseker, Jon Gorgione, and James Brown arrived at the scene of a serious boating accident. An unsuccessful effort was being made to pull two men, one severely injured, into a large cabin cruiser. Recognizing that they could more easily bring the victims into their low-sided vessel, the three young men immediately approached the scene, took the victims aboard, and quickly transported them to shore. Due to the severity of his wounds, the injured man was transported to Shock Trauma in Baltimore. He has

since been released, and has fully recovered. If it had not been for these swift and selfless actions, the rescue effort may not have been successful."

Also honored by the NRP, for another instance, was Stephen Vincent. On August 9, 1989, a fatal boating accident occurred on the Rhode River in Anne Arundel County involving two boats and numerous personal injuries. Still in a state of shock from his involvement in the accident, Vincent and another man took four children into their boat and then proceeded to locate two persons trapped beneath an overturned vessel. After repeated efforts in diving under the boat, Vincent assisted a man and his daughter out of the boat. One person did die in the accident, but, according to the NRP, Vincent's actions saved other lives.

SMALL CRAFT ADVISORY



P.O. Box 19000
Seattle, WA 98109

National Association of State Boating Law Administrators

