
National Association of State Boating Law Administrators

SMALL CRAFT ADVISORY

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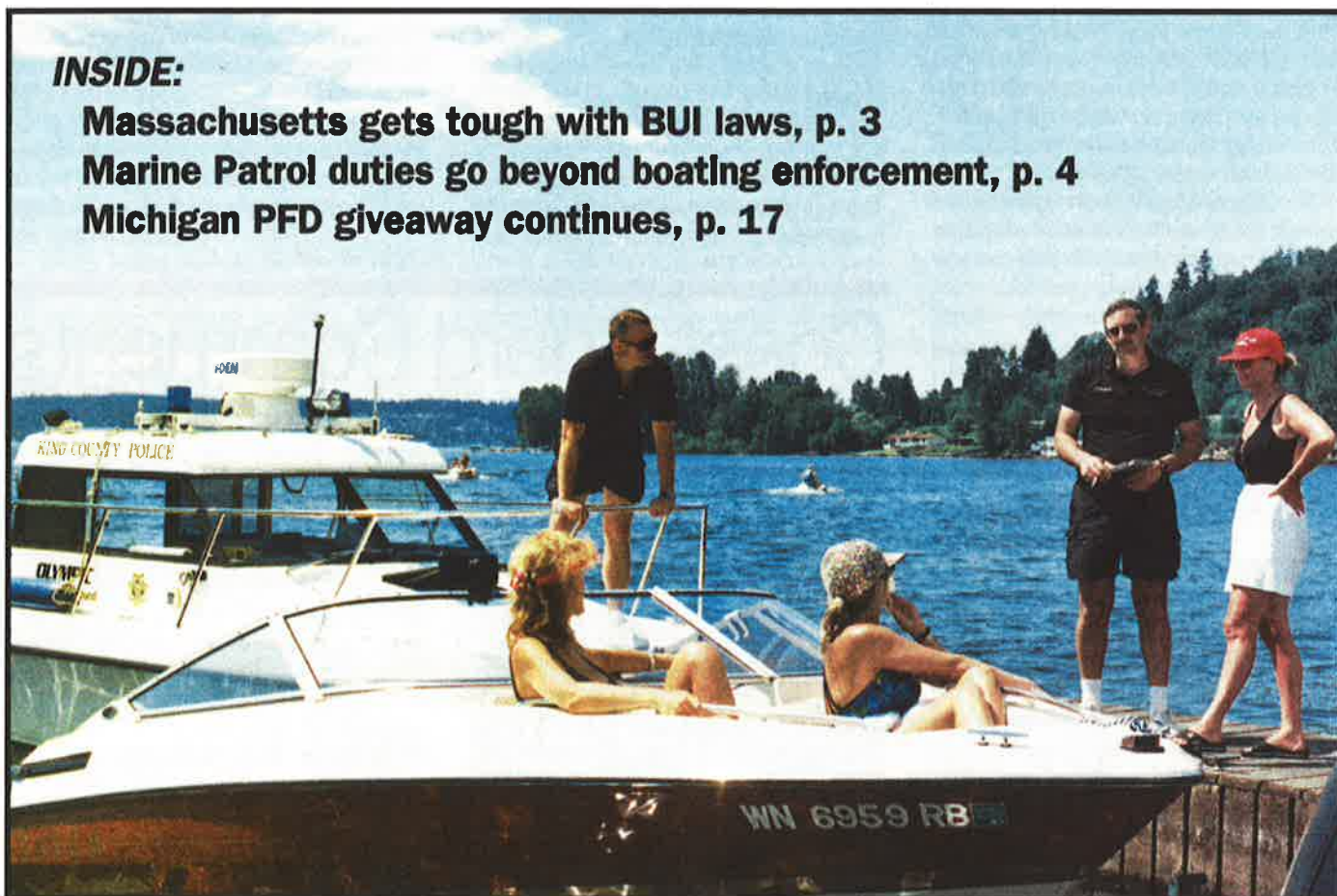


Photo by SCA Editor Dave Workman

Dockside boat checks are an important part of the marine enforcement officer's job, especially with this year's new PFD carriage requirements. In Washington State, marine enforcement is the job of local police and sheriff's departments. King County's Marine Unit ranks among the best, despite its small size. Here, officers Chuck Waggener (left) and Jim McMeins have come to the dock at Lake Sammamish State Park east of Seattle to check boaters.

President's Viewpoint



by Major Larry Rhinehart



Maj. Larry Rhinehart

The 104th Congress is well into its first session and we are still anxiously awaiting the markup of the U.S. Coast Guard's FY 1996 appropriation.

It seems we are always discussing this funding issue, but it is of paramount importance and, contrary to the thoughts of some, without it many facets of recreational boating safety programs throughout this country will die.

In the "White Paper" we released last year, we indicated that many education programs would suffer without this funding. Many programs would be curtailed while others would be sacrificed to fund on-the-water safety patrols.

Boating safety is best approached through the twofold method of education and enforcement. Over the past twenty-odd years, the states have proven that this dual approach works. However, without

the trust fund dollars, this puts the states in the precarious position of trying to combat the enemy with one hand tied behind their backs.

Through the Wallop/Breaux Trust Funds, the states have been able to plan ahead with certainty for the success of these programs. It is ironic that if we are not provided funds from Wallop/Breaux, the unappropriated funds will automatically roll into the Sport Fish Restoration Account and many of us will have to vie for funding with our state agencies that benefit from the roll-over of these user fee dollars to their fisheries accounts. It is again time to contact our representatives and senators and ask for our fair share. These Wallop/Breaux Trust Fund dollars help offset our budgetary requests for state general fund revenue. Contact your representatives and senators today!

Shifting to another area... In the past, NASBLA has requested grant funds annually to run our programs and the several standing and *ad hoc* committees we utilize to study and provide information for many

boating safety concerns. This year, the Coast Guard indicated they wanted better products as a result of these grants, and proposed that multiple issue grants would not only be considered, but encouraged.

I appointed an *ad hoc* committee to look at the boating safety issues we felt we could make an impact with and directed them to develop a competitive proposal that would allow for exploitation of the vast expertise available to NASBLA through our individual boating law administrators and the officers and programs in their states. NASBLA represents the true professionals in recreational boating safety and with the exception of the U.S. Coast Guard, no other organization represents the front line effort in educating boaters and saving lives.

The grant proposal *ad hoc* committee has done its job well and NASBLA has submitted a six-point proposal to the Coast Guard for the five percent nonprofit grant funds. The items are: 1) National Recreational Boating Safety Partnership Project (our annual proposal); 2) boat accident

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Coast Guard Comments

by Capt. Tony Stlmatz

Happy National Safe Boating Week!

While the actual dates have come and gone, we should all work to keep the spirit alive.

As you know, this year's theme focused on PFDs, with the slogan "It won't work if you don't wear it! - Life jackets save lives." This will be our basic theme in the years to come until we see a significant reduction in unnecessary fatalities from drowning because of non-use of PFDs.

There have been a number of such deaths this year already, where the occupants could have survived the accident if they had worn a PFD. More to the point, two men are alive today because they were wearing PFDs when their bass boat hydroplaned at high speed and crashed back down on them. Responders noted that neither would have been rescued without the flotation provided by their life jackets. In one victim's

case, the PFD provided some protection from the slicing action of the propeller when it hit him in the back.

As a quick training moment when you're out on the water, you can send the message home by letting people know that some 600 people a year die in boating accidents because they weren't wearing a life jacket. Some other sound bites to try out are:

- Boat Smart - Take a boating safety course.
- Boat Safe - Wear your life jacket.
- Boat Sober - Don't use alcohol or drugs while boating.

On the regulatory front, I'm sure you are making people aware of the new carriage requirement for wearable PFDs for all persons in boats 16 feet and under. This should make people more conscious of the presence of their lifesaving piece of gear than the old throwable cushion which was more like a piece of furniture.

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Tough new BUI law in Massachusetts

BOSTON, Mass. — A tough new law aimed at curbing drunk boating is now on the books in the Bay State, and it already appears to be having an impact on boozing Massachusetts boaters.

The law took effect in mid-April, and it contains some pretty stiff language. Most significant is that it lowers the blood alcohol content level for presumed intoxication to .08, noted acting Capt. Larry Chenier with the Massachusetts Department of Fisheries, Wildlife and Environmental Law Enforcement. The law also amended sections of state law relating to negligent and reckless operation, and invokes mandatory minimum penalties, including loss of driving privileges.

"Essentially," said Chenier, "what this law does is bring (boating) on par with the motor vehicle statute for driving under the influence. It's one of the toughest in the country."

Added Middlesex District Attorney Tom Reilly, a chief proponent of the legislation, "The fines and penalties in this new law should be great enough to act as a deterrent to drunk boaters. Although no license is needed to operate a boat, neither is operating a boat a license to drink."

Reilly began pushing the law in 1991, after a 67-year-old woman was killed in an alcohol-related boating accident. He developed a task force to strengthen the exist-

ing boating laws, and the following year, the state established implied consent and the .10 BAC standard.

How tough is this new law? Here are some of the major tenets:

- State law is amended to link BUI to OUI with the .08 BAC, but if under 21 years of age, that drops to .02 BAC.

- Refusal of a boat operator to submit to a breathalyzer test or other chemical test will result in the loss of motor vehicle license for 120 days.

- Conviction of a first offense for BUI brings a fine ranging from \$100 to \$1,000 and imprisonment for up to two years, with suspension of driving and boating privileges for a year. A second offense conviction within six years of the first conviction can bring a fine of \$300 to \$1,000 and imprisonment up to 2 years and suspension of operator privileges for two years. The fines and imprisonment periods gradually extend to up to ten years for five or more offenses, with fines up to \$1,500, and loss of operator privileges for 15 years.

- A separate schedule of penalties for operating a vessel without authority is established. The penalties range to fines of \$1,000 and jail time of up to two years.

- A set of operating prohibitions is established that includes operating recklessly or negligently so lives or public safety is in

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Conn. fields three boating safety teams

OLD LYME, Conn. — A trio of two-person boating safety teams is in the field this summer, offering information about safety requirements, and gathering information about where people boat, how often and how much it costs.

It's the second year for this effort, reported Frank Disbrow, education specialist with the Department of Environmental Protection's Office of Boating Safety. Last year, a pilot program produced 3,700 public contacts.

"This year," Disbrow said, "we hope to reach 6,000 people."

That is not a farfetched ambition. With 109 boat launches in Connecticut, split between the three teams, it just might be possible to make that many contacts before the program is discontinued for the year, Sept. 15.

"We hired six knowledgeable small craft operators," Disbrow explained. "They will also be teaching daytime and Saturday basic boating courses. The objective is to help the boater understand basic safety requirements, provide them with the boater's guide and assist in whatever other way they can. (Boaters) will also be completing a questionnaire. We're trying to get a general understanding of where they boat, how often, some of the costs, and what they see as the most common boating law violation to help us better address those kinds of things."

One other service the boat safety teams will provide is to loan personal flotation devices to the public.

"Each team has four each of infant, youth and adult PFDs," said Disbrow. "They will be using them on a loaner program. If a family goes out and they have no PFD appropriate for youngsters, we loan them (life jackets) and explain what they need. That is a positive aspect."

Disbrow sees the boat safety team concept as a visible effort to show Connecticut boaters that the state is providing a service that they've paid for. The six team members were selected from among nearly 40 applicants, all of whom were good candidates. Hired for a minimal (not minimum) wage, these teams are seasonal, Disbrow noted. ↓

Puerto Rico will alter course structure, offer home study, including PWC segment

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — The Department of Natural Resources is changing the structure of its boating safety education program so that it is more accommodating to the public.

Boating Law Administrator José Campos told *Small Craft Advisory* that the new course will be run over a two-day period. Previously, the course has been conducted over eight days.

"A lot of people have two jobs and it was causing disruptions in their family life," Campos explained. "We felt it was too much of a burden on people who came in, whether it was voluntarily or mandatory." The new course will have a one-day exam, also, said Campos.

At the same time, Puerto Rico is working on a home study course, he reported.

Students will be allowed to use the regular text, then come in at their prerogative to take the test. Presently, the course is being outlined, and Campos said it may resemble home study programs in Florida.

"We're hoping to make a 50-question exam, and we might make it up to 75 questions, because we do want it to be a little more concerned about personal watercraft," he said. "The test we have now does not cover these vehicles as much as we would like them to."

Campos said Bombardier is loaning a Sea-Doo to the DNR for use in education activities, and possibly enforcement. He also noted that Yamaha may also be loaning a PWC to Puerto Rico for the same reasons. The revised course will be offered all over the island. ↓

Marine patrol officers handle more than boating enforcement duties

by Dave Workman, Editor

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — It is the kind of call that in law enforcement circles might best be termed a "detail from Hell."

Last Dec. 10, at approximately 2:30 p.m., two security officers — one an off-duty deputy sheriff and the other a volunteer fireman — were gunned down on a dock by a pair of juveniles in a stolen boat. Within minutes, dispatchers with the Missouri Water Patrol had identified the suspects and gotten that information to Water Patrol officers. A 15-hour manhunt ensued during which the Water Patrol played a major role. Early the following morning the suspects — ages 13 and 17 — were arrested after they had abandoned the boat and hidden in a house.

(For their quick work, the Missouri dispatchers were honored by Gov. Mel Carnahan. See *A Job Well Done*.)

It is just one aspect of the job done by today's boating law enforcement professionals that the public seldom sees. Indeed, tracking down killers seems far removed from the kinds of things they might normally be expected to be doing.

Now, facing tighter budgets, and possible loss of federal dollars, those responsibilities might grow as manpower and support resources shrink.

Look anywhere in the nation, at those divisions that enforce state and federal boating laws, and it is hard to find even one where typical duties might squarely fit the imagined profile of the job.

According to Col. Larry Whitten, director of the Missouri Water Patrol, his 71-officer staff includes a couple of undercover officers. Last year, the Water Patrol made 645 drug arrests. It also responded to domestic arguments, boat thefts, accidents, residential burglaries of lakefront homes, drownings and many major crimes.

Sgt. Joe Hughes, assigned to Lake of the Ozarks, indicated that "routine" for the Marine Patrol is anything but. A few years ago, his agency cracked a major boat theft ring that was doing business in at least five states, from Iowa to Texas.

In neighboring Arkansas, boating law enforcement falls primarily on the shoulders of state wildlife agents, as it does in many other states. That's where Wildlife Officer II Richard Rowlett and Wildlife

Officer I Julie Cumberland patrol an entire county.

What does the job entail? According to Rowlett, this year his duties will expand, thanks to passage of legislation requiring PFD wear by juveniles.

But the responsibility for enforcing the

Last year, the Water Patrol made 645 drug arrests.

new code is added to a job that already found Rowlett, Cumberland and their colleagues enforcing the state's fishing and hunting laws, joining in search and rescue efforts and, as of May 1, going after drunk boaters.

Rowlett noted to *Small Craft Advisory* that Arkansas wildlife officers have been going through training necessary to operate breathalyzers. Occasionally, in addition to encountering common violators — people who run afoul of PFD requirements or other boating infractions — officers run

into situations a bit more serious.

For example, though it's never happened to Rowlett, he knows of other officers who have encountered people operating stolen boats. On such occasions, the operator gets arrested, and a trip to jail follows.

In those states where boating law enforcement is typically done by game wardens, a considerable amount of time is devoted also to checking licenses, talking to sportsmen and working in the realm of wildlife. Take a "typical" public contact, as described by Rowlett: "When I do a boat inspection, I approach from the downwind side and ease in, and let them know I'm coming. Then I take one thing at a time. I check their fishing license, then I check their life jackets and then the boat registration."

But the "nontypical" situations, acknowledged New Hampshire Boating Law Administrator Tom McCabe, chief of the Marine Patrol, seem to be getting more common.

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Coast Guard Comments *continued from page 2*

Of note, the Coast Guard has approved and the Secretary of Transportation announced at his Child Safety Summit on June 2, issuance of regulations for manufacture and approval of inflatable PFDs. This provides the method for getting these more comfortable types of PFDs to market, hopefully before the end of the boating season. Having done boardings myself, I know you will welcome the extra comfort and wearability inflatables will provide on the water. Many of the boating law administrators I have talked to are hoping to make them a stocking stuffer for those of you in the field. Whether yoke type or belt pack, they will be lightweight, unobtrusive and reliable.

As I mentioned earlier, the Secretary of Transportation sponsored a child transportation safety summit the first two days in June. This summit brought together hundreds of safety, child and transportation experts to address how we can move kids safely. At the summit, Secretary Peña and Secretary Riley of the Department of Education signed a memorandum of understanding to promote the teaching of transportation safety, including boating

safety, to all children in schools through grade 12. This is a significant signing, since it allows for the formal introduction of safety issues into the classroom. We and the various states will be working hard to make boating safety a part of that educational reality.

Another initiative announced at the summit was the availability of community grant funds for development of safe community programs. This is based on a Swedish effort that focused on making the entire community safe for all residents. The idea is to look at all modes of transportation and recreation and create a systemic safety program. The goal is to minimize dangers and prevent injurious incidents. This may be an effort your community may want to take part in. The Department of Transportation is sponsoring this effort.

In closing, let me say that you are our ambassadors of safety on the water and have a great impact on the behavior of the boating public. I ask you to continue to set a good example, take a boarding moment to teach boaters, and keep after those folks who don't want to Boat Smart, Safe or Sober.

Georgia BUI arrests steadily increase; new law toughens penalties

SOCIAL CIRCLE, Ga. — Growing numbers of intoxicated boaters in Georgia are smarting, and thanks to new legislation signed by Gov. Zell Miller, their woes will increase even more.

The new law created the crimes of homicide by vessel, feticide by vessel and serious injury by vessel. It also established felony provisions for careless or reckless boat operation resulting in death or serious injury.

If convicted under the new statute, violators could go to prison for anywhere from two to 15 years.

This tough new stance by the Georgia Legislature came as figures were released showing a steady increase in the number of arrests for boating under the influence over the past seven years. According to the Georgia Wildlife Resources Division, which handles boating law enforcement statewide, in 1994 there were over 400 BUI arrests. In 1988, just over 100 BUI arrests were made.

Lt. Col. Joel Brown, Georgia's boating law administrator, noted that while BUI arrests have risen, there has been a decline in boating fatalities, from 21 in 1989 to 13 in 1993. The number of fatal boating accidents is down from 18 in 1989 to 12 in 1993.

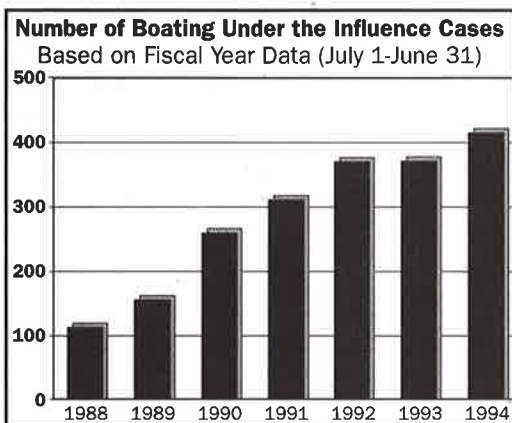
"In 1987," he observed, "we had 8.5 fatalities for every 100,000 boaters and that has been going down. It was down to 3 fatalities for every 100,000 boaters."

He also maintained that the increased arrest rates for BUI does not mean there are more drunken boaters in Georgia. Rather, he said, the statistics actually indicate that more of them are simply being apprehended than ever before. He credits improved training over the years, and new BUI detection procedures, that have made this possible.

With a tougher law in effect now, abusers are going to have an even tougher time. Under Georgia law, the blood alcohol levels for BUI are the same for DUI: presumptive evidence of intoxication is a .08 blood alcohol level, and absolute evidence is a .10. The charge of BUI applies to any boaters who are arrested for being under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

The steady rise in BUI arrests might

be attributed to an increase in the number of boaters in Georgia, and increased emphasis on BUI by boating law enforcement officers. There are more than 322,000 registered boats in Georgia. Boating authorities have recommended the use of "designated skippers" whenever alcohol is on board, and to keep alcohol consumption at a minimum among all other passengers. ↓



Kawasaki charges into safe boating effort

Kawasaki has jumped into the boating safety effort with both feet, with a two-pronged strategy that includes a PFD giveaway and the use of Kawasaki personal watercraft to help television reporters get a better understanding about safe boating.

According to Kawasaki spokeswoman Gale Nye, the company played a significant role in the recent National Safe Boating Week campaign when it gave away 560 personal flotation devices across the country. This was done with the cooperation of local Kawasaki dealers in 20 major television and radio markets.

"The dealers worked in conjunction with a local radio or television station," she explained, "to call attention to National Safe Boating Week. They did on-site demonstrations, and life jackets went to people who signed up for boating safety courses. In some states, we also worked with state boating law administrators on these programs."

There were several events, such as

Kansas will host NCIABLA Conference

WICHITA, Kan. — Law enforcement, accident investigation and education will all be subjects of committee meetings during the Aug. 6-9 NCIABLA Conference.

Kansas Boating Law Administrator Jeff Gayer is this year's NCIABLA president, and will host a reception at the Wichita Boathouse, which houses one of the America's Cup racing boats.

The conference will headquarter at the Airport Hilton Hotel.

"We are inviting Marie Winkel from Minnesota to discuss titling and registration," said Gayer. "She is on the national registration and titling committee."

Attendance might be a smart move, since Gayer noted there will be a seminar on the subject during this September's NASBLA conference in Las Vegas. ↓

incorporating demonstrations into the annual Wichita River Festival in Wichita, Kan., that drew about 30,000 people.

One radio station on Lake Havasu that lies along the border between California and Arizona used personal watercraft to conduct a "prize patrol," she noted. Radio personalities went cruising in search of people who were responsible boaters, and they signed up people to take safe boating courses. They were also given the PFDs, Nye said. The life jackets were provided by Kawasaki, on behalf of the local dealers, to make the involvement local. This effort was conducted throughout the entire National Safe Boating Week campaign.

The second part of this effort involved the use of Kawasaki PWCs by some 15 television stations around the U.S., said Nye.

"We had a phenomenal response," she recalled.

The stations used the personal watercraft to "get out on the water and promote" NSBW activities, Nye said. ↓

NESBAC

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1995 NESBAC Conference: Massachusetts

CONNECTICUT

Boating Law Administrator Capt. Timothy Skaats reported seven BUI arrests in 1994 by officers in the Law Enforcement Division of the Bureau of Natural Resources.

They completed 7,128 courtesy inspections last year. Overall, officers logged 31,350 man-hours last year.

The most common violations encountered last year were insufficient PFDs or lack of appropriate registration.

Hotspots for violations include the Connecticut, Housatonic and Thames rivers, Lake Beseck and the Quaddick Reservoir.

"We will be increasing enforcement," said Skaats, "especially during the summer season when boating activity increases."

He said the Intoximeter 3000 is used in Connecticut to identify BUI suspects. The division receives funding for the breathalyzer and BUI operations from the state.

Special enforcement efforts do require overtime and are also funded by the state, he noted.

During National Safe Boating Week, the Law Enforcement Division maintained high visibility on all state waters, he said.

Officers are issued Glock Model 17 semi-auto pistols in 9mm.

DELAWARE

In 1994, Delaware's Division of Fish & Wildlife officers reported 11,328 boardings and 65,049 public contacts, according to officer Rick Burritt.

There was but one OUI conviction last year, while the most common violation was for insufficient PFDs.

Burritt reported that portable breathalyzers are used to identify drunk boaters. Officers also are trained in field testing techniques, including the horizontal gaze nystagmus test. Breathalyzers are paid for with RBS funds.

Delaware's hot spots are the three inland bays, separated from the Atlantic by a long dune. Enforcement efforts on these bays include joint operations with the U.S. Coast Guard.

In the event of special operations that require overtime, officers receive overtime pay. That money is funded by boat registration revenues and the general fund.

To highlight boating safety, the agency cooperates with the U.S.C.G. in media events, and there is a banquet to honor volunteers.

Delaware officers are armed with Smith & Wesson Model 669 semi-auto pistols, chambered in 9mm.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

According to officer Anthony Robinson with the Metropolitan Police Department, last year saw 18 people arrested for boating while intoxicated.

He said officers in the Harbor Patrol made 463

contacts and boardings. The most common violation reported was for speed in no-wake zones.

The two chief hot spots for boating violations in the District are the waterfront areas of Old Town Alexandria and Georgetown, both popular party locations for boaters. Robinson said this year the division will be joining its efforts with the traffic enforcement branch to curb violations.

Officers use portable breathalyzers (Intoximeter RBT IV) to detect drunken boaters. The units are purchased with grant funds, Robinson reported.

In the event of special enforcement details that require overtime, officers receive comp time off.

During this year's National Safe Boating Week campaign kickoff, officers posted literature at various marinas. Television stations aired public safety messages and officers are spending time at boat ramps conducting safety inspections and handing out safe boating pamphlets.

Robinson noted that metropolitan marine patrol officers carry either a Glock 19 or Sig-Sauer P226 in 9mm.

MAINE

Last year, 48 persons were convicted in Maine for boating under the influence, according to Boating Law Administrator Parker Tripp.

There were 16,894 inspections, and the most common violation encountered was for unregistered motorboats, or insufficient PFDs.

The biggest enforcement hot spot is along the Saco River (see related story, this issue). Plans call for a study of the situation with possible solutions to crowding and related problems.

Tripp said officers identify drunk boating suspects first through the use of field sobriety testing and then via breath testing with the Intoxilizer at a city or county police station. The agency does not own any portable breath testers, Tripp said.

Overtime is available to officers who work special assignments, usually dealing with OUI.

Several special activities were planned in conjunction with National Safe Boating Week.

In Maine, wardens are armed with .357 Magnum Smith & Wesson revolvers.

Meanwhile, Lt. Richard LaHaye with the Maine Marine Patrol reported 22 BUI arrests among his officers last year. The Marine Patrol reported 10,197 boardings and public contacts, and found that operating without a certificate and numbers was the most common violation.

To counter violations, the Marine Patrol will beef up the OUI enforcement, LaHaye said. Officers use basic observation and general field testing to identify drunk boaters.

Special enforcement efforts do require overtime, and there are funds in a special account, or comp time, to handle this.

The Marine Patrol also uses materials supplied by the National Safe Boating Council for NSBW activities.

Marine Patrol officers carry the Smith & Wesson .45-caliber semi-auto.

MASSACHUSETTS

The Massachusetts Environmental Police reported four BUI arrests in 1994, according to Boating Law Administrator Col. Richard Murray.

"We conducted 22,575 motorboat boardings during the year," Col. Murray reported. "It was close, but the most common... violation was (for insufficient) motorboat equipment, including PFDs, fire extinguishers, horns and other lifesaving devices. There were 415 citations."

Murray said there are numerous hot spots throughout the commonwealth, including the Connecticut River, where a 25-foot Boston Whaler patrol boat has just been assigned to beef up enforcement. Also, senior command officers (majors, captains) are working on a summer action plan to increase patrol operations.

There are active areas along the coast that need additional attention, he continued. The agency has assigned 15 new officers and additional boats to those areas, and signed a MOU with the Coast Guard for joint operations in those areas.

The Environmental Police utilize breathalyzers at local police departments and state police barracks. Portable breathalyzer results are not accepted by Massachusetts courts.

Some enforcement efforts require overtime, and that is funded from the budget and grant funds.

Recent passage of a tough BUI law was the basis for a boating safety media campaign. The agency is planning to produce television PSAs on drunk boating, a "Boat Sober" billboard will be seen in various locations and posters will be displayed at liquor stores, waterside clubs and marinas.

The effort will be supported by MADD, the Coast Guard Auxiliary and Substance Abuse Network.

Massachusetts officers carry Smith & Wesson .38-caliber revolvers.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Boating Law Administrator Tom McCabe reported 23 BWI arrests last year by the New Hampshire Division of Safety Services' Marine Patrol.

There were also 333 courtesy inspections by New Hampshire officers.

The most common violation they reported was for failure to allow safe passage.

The state's lakes provide the chief enforcement challenges, said McCabe. He noted that there are no special operations planned this summer, including joint operations with any other enforcement agencies.

Officers use Intoxilizer 5000 units, at local police stations, to identify drunk boaters.

When officers are required to work overtime, they receive pay from a special budget account.

The New Hampshire governor did issue a proclamation to open National Safe Boating Week.

NEW JERSEY

Garden State boating law enforcement officers last year corralled 185 drunk boating suspects, reported Lt. Albert Dempster, New Jersey State Police.

They also conducted 12,667 boardings and inspections, and reported 59,665 public contacts. The contacts included appearances at schools and boat shows, he noted.

The most common violation is for speed in no-wake zones, and for lack of sufficient PFDs.

New Jersey's enforcement hot spots include bays, rivers and lakes, including Cape May, Wildwood and the Delaware River. Personal watercraft are frequently involved, Dempster acknowledged.

The State Police conducts its own BUI patrols, and the Breathalyzer 900 is used by officers to detect drunk boaters. Funding for the purchase of this equipment came from the state general fund. If officers are required to work overtime, they get overtime pay, he added.

To kick off the safe boating campaign this summer during National Safe Boating Week, materials from the National Safe Boating Council were used, he noted.

The New Jersey State Police carry Heckler & Koch P7M8 semi-auto pistols chambered in 9mm.

NEW YORK

Empire State enforcement officers had a busy year in 1994, reporting 53,098 stops and 37,964 boardings.

According to Boating Law Administrator Nelson Potter, they also arrested 135 BUI suspects.

However, the most common violation they encountered was for lack of registration, followed closely by insufficient PFDs.

Potter said bays, inlets and harbors of the New York City-Long Island area are the biggest enforcement hot spots.

Officers are trained in Impaired Boater Recognition. On-board equipment to detect intoxication is "rarely used," he said.

To get all this done, he noted that minimal overtime is required. Most agencies have special accounts for overtime, which can come from grants or regular funds.

For National Safe Boating Week, the governor will issue a proclamation, and there will be materials distributed, said Potter.

New York Park Police officers are armed with

the Glock Model 22 in .40 S&W, while other agencies issue 9mm semi-autos, he reported.

PENNSYLVANIA

Boating law enforcement officers in the Keystone State reported 49,077 boardings and public contacts in 1994, according to Boating Law Administrator John Simmons.

They made 29 arrests for BUI, but reported the most common violation is lack of sufficient PFDs.

Simmons noted that Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission officers use portable breathalyzers to nab BUI suspects. This equipment has been obtained through boat fund purchases and as gifts/donations to the agency.

The main enforcement hot spots, he added, include Lake Wallenpaupack, the Susquehanna River, Delaware River, Lake Erie and the "Three Rivers" (Allegheny, Monongahela and Ohio) area. Special enforcement efforts this year include special details where officers are brought in from surrounding areas, additional patrols and BUI checkpoints.

Such special operations may involve overtime, which is included in a budget category.

For this year's National Safe Boating Week efforts, and for boating safety throughout the season, Pennsylvania will utilize the National Cinema Network Project, with boating safety messages in several theaters, reaching possibly 100,000 movie-goers.

A media blitz is also planned in which news releases and the NSBW decal are distributed to the media.

A public service announcement concerning alcohol and boating will also be released.

Pennsylvania officers like the .40-caliber semi-auto. They are issued the Beretta Model 96D.

RHODE ISLAND

Rhode Island's OUI arrests plummeted after the state enacted its current OUI law. It is estimated there were about six arrests last year.

There are hundreds of public contacts annually, and education specialist Mike Scanlon said the most common violation encountered by officers with the Department of Environmental Management's enforcement division is lack of proper registration, followed by reckless operation.

The state's chief enforcement hot spots include Johnson's Pond, Wachaug Pond and Echo Lake, said Scanlon. To identify drunk boating suspects, officers use field sobriety testing and then take

suspects to a local police station for testing on a breathalyzer.

There are some joint operations with other agencies to discourage drunken boaters. Occasionally, the division does require overtime, which is financed with money from the agency's operating budget.

For National Safe Boating Week, Rhode Island utilized materials from the National Safe Boating Council, said Scanlon.

Officers carry Smith & Wesson Model 4506 semi-auto pistols, chambered in .45 ACP.

VERMONT

BLA Sgt. Al Buck told *Small Craft Advisory* that there were ten arrests for BWI in 1994, which was down considerably from the 29 posted in 1993.

Last year, he said, the Department of Public Safety's Division of State Police conducted 4,931 safety inspection boardings. The most common violation they encountered was for exceeding 5 mph in the 200-foot no-wake zone.

In the past years, said Buck, "Our main hot spot was Lake Champlain, which is the sixth largest body of water in the country. This year, I anticipate our marine officers encountering problems on Waterbury Reservoir, which is a pristine, 823-acre body of water located in the central part of the state. With this anticipation, I have assigned an additional patrol boat to the office responsible for coverage."

Vermont marine officers utilize Alco-Sensors on board the boats for preliminary screening of suspected BWI operators. After probable cause has been established, the officers continue the processing by utilizing an infrared collection or a crimper.

Most breathalyzer equipment has been purchased using federal grant funds through the Governor's Highway Safety Program, and from the department's operating budget.

Buck said special overtime programs are largely funded by other grants, most recently through the Border Patrol or U.S. Customs.

Gov. Howard Dean proclaimed National Safe Boating Week, and joint activities were scheduled between the state, U.S. Coast Guard and USCG Auxiliary.

Buck also noted that marine officers carry Smith & Wesson stainless steel Model 66-1 revolvers chambered in .357 Magnum with 2 1/2-inch barrels.

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ALABAMA

In Alabama last year, there were 16 arrests for BUI, according to Boating Law Administrator William B. Garner, Alabama Marine Police.

He also reported 16,869 public contacts,

boardings and inspections. The most common violation discovered by officers was for insufficient PFDs.

Garner said Alabama's hot spots are its reservoirs, adding that there are no special enforcement efforts mounted on those waters.

Only in cases of emergency is overtime authorized for enforcement officers.

For National Safe Boating Week, Alabama utilized materials supplied by the National Safe Boating Council.

Alabama Marine Police officers carry 9mm

semi-auto sidearms, Garner added.

ARKANSAS

Last year, there were four reported OUI arrests by officers with the Arkansas Game & Fish Commission, according to Butch Potts in the Boating Safety Section.

He said there were about 4,000 to 5,000 public contacts and boardings, and the most common violation was failure to register a vessel. Second in line was operating a ski boat without an observer.

Potts noted that Lakes Hamilton, Ouachita, Greer's Ferry, Norfolk and Beaver are the state's hot spots. There will be some special operations mounted to address that.

To help identify drunken boaters, Arkansas officers will use PBTs, now that the state has a new BUI statute. Potts said donations may be forthcoming from various groups and organizations.

The governor signed a National Safe Boating Week proclamation, and the second year of Arkansas' "Harbor Hero" program was kicked off. It worked out well last year, Potts recalled.

Arkansas officers carry Glock Model 22 semi-auto pistols chambered in .40 S&W.

FLORIDA

Lt. Mike Suelter with the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission reported that officers in his agency made 78 OUI arrests in 1994.

They also conducted 169,965 boardings, inspections and public contacts last year, finding safety equipment violations most common.

Hot spots are found in all five of the Commission's regions around the state.

"We currently work jointly with other law enforcement agencies on holiday weekends," Suelter commented.

To identify intoxicated boaters, Commission officers use the standard Sobriety test. If there is probable cause, they transport the suspect to a testing facility and use the Intoxilizer 5000.

No overtime is required for special operations. The agency's boating safety budget comes from federal grant money and state general revenue.

The Commission placed special emphasis on OUI violations during National Safe Boating Week. PFD compliance was also stressed. Materials from the National Safe Boating Council were used.

Florida freshwater officers carry Smith & Wesson Model 5905 pistols in 9mm.

GEORGIA

Last year, officers with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife Resources Division arrested 360 individuals suspected of boating while intoxicated.

According to Lt. Col. Joel Brown, DNR boating law administrator, officers conducted 90,364 public contacts, boat inspections and boardings last year.

The most common violation (1,484 incidents) they reported was failure to obey a regulatory marker.

Brown said the coastal waters near Savannah, the Savannah River and Lake Lanier are the state's hot spots and will require additional attention during this year's boating season.

"We use the Alco-Sensor III as a screening

device in the field," he reported. "The Intox 5000 is used as the evidentiary tool for breath tests. HGN is the most effective field sobriety test and is used in the process prior to the use of the Alco-Sensor III. A new technique called the 'safety check' is proving to be extremely successful in finding drug violations, other than alcohol."

Brown said most Alco-Sensors are purchased with federal funds. Some are donated by local enforcement agencies, county governments or interested civic organizations.

Officers who work overtime on special enforcement assignments receive comp time.

To call attention to National Safe Boating Week, the DNR has planned special activities, using NSBW materials. Activities are coordinated on a local level by boating officers and local groups, civic clubs, government agencies, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and the U.S. Power Squadron.

In Georgia, home of Glock, the standard issue sidearm is a Model 22 in .40 S&W.

KENTUCKY

The Kentucky Water Patrol, amid last year's transition to the Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources, still collared 227 drunken boaters, according to Capt. Reed Sanders.

He also reported 11,672 boardings and public contacts. The most common violations they encountered were for equipment violations and negligent operation. Offenses were about evenly split, Sanders noted.

The biggest hot spot for the state is along the Ohio River, and Sanders said state conservation officers will be assisting in enforcement efforts this summer.

Officers use portable breath testers to detect BUI offenders and those units are financed through state grant funds.

In the event special operations require overtime, that is also funded through state grant funds, Sanders added. He said the Water Patrol is running PSAs dealing with safe boating in the wake of National Safe Boating Week.

The Water Patrol is currently switching from 10mm Smith & Wesson semi-auto pistols to .45 ACP semi-auto pistols, Sanders noted.

LOUISIANA

Sgt. Robert Duthu with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries Enforcement Division reported 91 BUI arrests last year by the division.

There were 45,000 boating safety inspections and public contacts by enforcement personnel, and the most common violation they encountered was for improper, or lack of, vessel registration.

The top enforcement hot spots include the Lake Charles area of Calcasieu Parish. Also mentioned was Livingston, Ascension and Orleans parishes. The agency's enforcement "strike force" is operating in those areas this summer, he confirmed. They do work in cooperation with other agencies. These efforts occasionally require overtime, for which officers receive comp time.

To detect intoxicated boaters, Duthu said officers rely on field sobriety testing and the horizontal gaze nystagmus test to first establish probable cause. Then they employ the Intoxilizer 5000. Funds for breathalyzer equipment come from the agency's general budget.

Special activities kicking off the National Safe Boating Week campaign included intensive law enforcement efforts over the Memorial Day holiday weekend, Duthu reported.

Louisiana officers carry Glock 9mm or .40 S&W caliber sidearms.

MARYLAND

The Maryland Natural Resources Police last year nabbed 193 persons for boating while intoxicated, according to Sgt. Bob Chandler.

Officers reported 82,777 boardings and public contacts last year. The most common violation they encountered was for lack of registration, followed closely by exceeding the speed limit. Insufficient PFDs came in third.

Chandler did not identify any specific hot spots, noting that there are numerous problem areas throughout the state. Special enforcement efforts range from SWAMP patrols, white water patrols and joint operations with local/county law enforcement agencies, the Coast Guard, DEA and Customs.

Natural Resources Police use the Alco-Sensor preliminary breath tester to detect drunk boaters. Purchase of these units was financed through various sources. Money came from the state, special boating-related funds and donations by individuals and groups.

The agency planned a number of special activities around National Safe Boating Week. They included boat inspections, conducting alcohol saturation patrols and running PSAs.

Overtime is compensated either from the general fund or in comp time.

Maryland officers carry the Beretta Model 92FS chambered in 9mm.

MISSISSIPPI

Mississippi is initiating its Alcohol Boating Safety Act this summer (beginning July 1), according to BLA Liz Raymond with the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks.

Last year, approximately 8,240 public contacts were logged by wildlife officers, and the most common boating violations they encountered were for improper safety equipment including insufficient PFDs, no running lights, lack of a fire extinguisher, etc.

The top enforcement hot spot is Ross Barnett Reservoir which crosses five counties, including Jackson.

In preparation for implementation of the new BUI law, said Raymond, officers are being trained on the use of the Intoxilizer 5000. The department will use some of the equipment, and obtain what they can with available matching funds from the U.S. Coast Guard account, she added.

Officers do get comp time for any overtime they work, she said.

In Mississippi, enforcement officers are changing over from .357 Magnum revolvers to .45 ACP Smith & Wesson semi-autos. That transition should be nearly completed by now.

MISSOURI

The Missouri State Water Patrol made 146 arrests for BWI/OUI in 1994, and they included three for being under the influence of drugs.

According to Cpl. Charles Bent, the Water Patrol's 65 officers conducted 49,495 boardings and public contacts. They issued 3,545 citations

and 11,355 warnings, and rendered first aid to 45 persons. The most common violations they encountered were for insufficient PFDs.

Bent said Lake of the Ozarks and the Southeast Missouri float streams are the hot spots that generate most activity. To deal with the problems, saturation patrols are used, and this year, joint operations with the DNR and Highway Safety will target BWI on the water and DWI in the state parks.

Water Patrol officers have limited use of PBTs in the field, and they rely mainly on good field sobriety tests supported by BAC measurements.

Funding for breathalyzer equipment comes from a variety of sources. Equipment is purchased with federal grant money and state general fund.

Specialized enforcement officers work overtime. They receive comp time at a later date, or pay at regular scale on occasion.

The Water Patrol distributed information on Safe Boating Week to news agencies statewide. They used material from the National Safe Boating Council. Boat inspections were also set up around the state to kick off NSBW.

Missouri officers carry the Glock Model 22 in .40 S&W, Bent reported.

NEW MEXICO

New Mexico State Parks officers made three BUI arrests last year, reported Dave Skasik, boating law administrator and director of field operations.

He said 11,619 boardings, public contacts and inspections were logged. The most common violations encountered were for insufficient PFDs, violation of no wake zones, invalid (or lack of) registrations, overloading and prohibited operations.

Enforcement hot spots are Elephant Butte, Conchase, Ute and Navajo reservoirs. The division joins forces with the state police in enforcement efforts on major holidays, along with the Coast Guard Auxiliary for safety patrols throughout the year, he added. Overtime accrued by officers for these activities is credited as comp time.

The State Parks Division is currently testing portable breathalyzers to identify drunken boaters. It is utilizing these devices on loan.

For National Safe Boating Week, the agency utilized radio and television public service announcements and news coverage.

New Mexico officers carry their own sidearms in .38 Special or .357 Magnum.

NORTH CAROLINA

The most common violation that officers with the state Wildlife Resources Commission found during 82,339 public contacts last year was for insufficient PFDs.

Agency spokesman Ed Jenkins reported 105 arrests for boating while intoxicated.

The state's enforcement hot spots are Lake Jordan, Falls Lake, Lake Wylie and Lake Norman, all located in the central Piedmont. All of those waters are receiving plenty of attention this summer, he assured, although no special operations are scheduled.

To identify drunken boaters, field sobriety testing is administered. Officers use portable breathalyzers and there are several intoximeters located around the state. Also, about 60 of the agency's 215 officers have been certified to perform chemical breath analysis.

Funds for the purchase of breathalyzer equipment comes from special donations from sportsmen, civic groups and Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

When overtime is required, officers receive comp time, he added.

To call attention to this year's safe boating campaign, the commission is providing public service announcements to all 45 of the state's television stations, including cable networks. Also, officers are taking reporters on the water for film segments on boating and water safety.

Enforcement personnel are issued Beretta Model 96 semi-auto pistols in .40 S&W.

OKLAHOMA

The Oklahoma Lake Patrol reported nine arrests for boating while intoxicated last year, said Lt. Bob Sanders, state boating law administrator.

He said there were 6,129 boarding inspections, and the most common violation encountered by officers was for reckless/ careless operation.

Oklahoma lakes are the enforcement "hot spots," and Sanders said there is special emphasis enforcement in areas where problems arise.

In situations that require overtime for special enforcement efforts, officers receive comp time.

This year's National Safe Boating Week campaign involved the use of information from the National Safe Boating Council. Sanders said the event received media coverage.

The Oklahoma Lake Patrol arms its officers with 9mm or .45-caliber Sig Sauer semi-auto pistols, he added.

PUERTO RICO

According to Boating Law Administrator Jose Campos, there were no BUI arrests by officers with the Department of Natural Resources.

They did, however, conduct 1,083 boardings and public contacts, he said. The most common violation they encountered was lack of knowledge about navigational rules.

Campos identified beach areas as the hot spots for violations.

All special enforcement efforts require overtime and officers receive comp time.

Campos said Puerto Rico will focus attention on PFDs in conjunction with the National Safe Boating Week campaign. His agency is using materials supplied by the National Safe Boating Council.

Officers do not carry sidearms, but they are issued AR-15 rifles for certain special operations, said Campos.

SOUTH CAROLINA

According to BLA Major Alvin Taylor, officers with the Department of Natural Resources reported 185,979 public contacts, boardings and inspections in 1994.

The most common violation they encountered was for insufficient life jackets aboard.

Taylor said DNR officers will be conducting a number of special patrols this summer. The efforts of the boating task force teams will be spread across the state. If overtime is involved in conducting such operations, officers receive comp time.

When they encounter suspected drunken boaters, they use field sobriety tests to detect intoxication.

South Carolina joined the nation during National Safe Boating Week in calling attention to this year's campaign message about life jacket wear.

DNR officers carry .40-caliber Glock semi-auto pistols.

TENNESSEE

Officers with the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency made 39 BUI arrests last year, according to Boating Law Administrator Ed Carter.

Approximately 45,000 boardings, public contacts and inspections were made last year. The most common violation officers encountered was for insufficient PFDs and improper registration.

Carter said hot spots are reservoirs and lakes in metropolitan areas. There are 22 part time officers on duty to work peak summer periods, to increase on-the-water presence. Enforcement efforts focus on Memorial Day and July 4, primarily aimed at BUI and improper use of personal watercraft.

"Complaints have been greater than usual regarding personal watercraft. So far this year, it appears that our accident rate involving PWCs is increasing," said Carter.

He said special enforcement details have been initiated this summer where PWC use is greatest.

BUI detection is primarily done through field sobriety tests. Some breath testing equipment has been purchased with general budget funds. Some local radio stations have also raised money for BUI equipment purchases, with the equipment then donated to the agency.

When officers are required to work overtime, they receive comp time.

Safe Boating Week was observed in Tennessee with a variety of activities involving the TWRA, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Corps of Engineers and others.

All commissioned officers carry sidearms. The agency issue is a Glock Model 22 in .40 S&W.

TEXAS

In the Lone Star State last year, officers with the Parks & Wildlife Department reported 103 arrests for boating while intoxicated.

According to Carlos Vaca, boating law administrator and assistant commander of TPWD's Law Enforcement Division, officers conducted approximately 46,000 boardings, inspections and public contacts in 1994. The most common violation they encountered was insufficient PFDs.

The agency this summer is mounting operations to head off violations on metropolitan area lakes around Dallas/Ft. Worth, Houston, Austin and San Antonio, and along the Guadalupe River in Comal County.

When they encounter drunken boating suspects, they use portable breath testers to determine the level of intoxication. These units were purchased with funds from grants and the general fund, said Vaca.

This year, to promote the use of life jackets in the wake of National Safe Boating Week, TPWD officers are contacting local news media. They distributed materials provided by the National Safe Boating Council.

TPWD officers carry .40-caliber Glock Model 22 semi-auto pistols as their standard issue sidearm.

VIRGIN ISLANDS

There were no BUI arrests in the Virgin Islands

last year, according to BLA Robert Danet.

He said there were 1,263 boardings and safety inspections, and the most common violations encountered were for lack of proper registration and no running lights.

The hot spots are local harbors and bays, and joint operations are being conducted with local police agencies to address the problems.

Portable breath testers are used to identify drunken boating suspects, and local police assist in the testing. PBTs are supplied by the Federal Highway Safety office.

Some joint operations require overtime.

There were several activities during National Safe Boating Week, with presentations on all three islands, including "Boating Safety Fun Days" on St. John and St. Thomas. School visits were also conducted.

Officers here carry Smith & Wesson Model 66 revolvers in .357 Magnum, but the Department of Planning & Natural Resources is currently evaluating the S&W Sigma semi-auto in .40 S&W caliber, Danet reported.

VIRGINIA

Colonel Jeff Uerz and Charlie Sledd with the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries Law Enforcement Division said 19 arrests for OUI

were reported in 1994.

That figure reflects the steady decline of drunk boating arrests in Virginia since 1991, when there were 73 people arrested.

Uerz, chief of enforcement, reported 30,626 inspections and 85,857 angler contacts last year. The most common violation encountered by game wardens were for insufficient PFDs. Wardens issued 631 citations for this violation.

Sledd noted that rivers and streams in the state produce a high number of accidents, so the department has modified its boating safety enforcement program to increase contact with boaters on those waters. Through the purchase and intensive use of whitewater canoes, jet drive jon boats and PWCs, officers are working waters not traditionally patrolled.

In addition to PBT equipment, the agency purchased video cameras and night vision equipment to nab OUI violators. Support has come from Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

The initial breath testing equipment issued by the agency was purchased through grant monies. At that time, 30 units were purchased.

Whenever possible, officers are paid overtime rather than given comp time, due to manpower limitations. Some special activities do require overtime.

The agency uses materials from the National

Safe Boating Council to promote National Safe Boating Week. Packages were provided to all regional boating education coordinators and some volunteer instructors.

Virginia wardens do carry sidearms, in this case, the Smith & Wesson Model 5906 in 9mm. However, the agency is currently upgrading to .40-caliber sidearms.

WEST VIRGINIA

According to Liz Harless, administrative services assistant in the Division of Natural Resources' enforcement section, there are no special enforcement efforts planned this summer.

To combat BWI offenses, officers utilize portable breath testers, she noted. These are actually owned by the Governor's Committee on Drunk Driving.

There is no overtime devoted to special operations or projects, said Harless.

West Virginia distributed National Safe Boating Week materials prior to the annual observance. Also, in mid-May, the second annual Kid's Fest was held on the Ohio River at Huntington. Sponsored by the Tri-State Boating Council, it offered various youth-oriented activities.

West Virginia enforcement officers carry Smith & Wesson Model 4046 semi-auto pistols in .40 S&W caliber, she added.

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ILLINOIS

Illinois Department of Conservation officers report lots of activity at the Chain O'Lakes in the northern part of the state.

It's possibly the state's biggest hot spot for boating enforcement, due to the proximity of the Chicago metropolitan area.

"Metropolitan Chicago has discovered it," observed Boating Law Administrator Tom Wakolbinger.

To combat drunk boating, officers test BUI suspects with portable breath testers and also administer field sobriety tests. Breathalyzers are purchased through grants, general funding or received as donations from groups such as Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

In the event officers work overtime on special assignments, searches or accidents, they receive comp time, he added.

To call the public's attention to National Safe Boating Week, and safe boating in general, officers are frequently stationed at landings. They perform boat checks and watch for BUI suspects.

Illinois officers carry .40-caliber Model 4046 Smith & Wesson semi-autos, he added.

INDIANA

Enforcement officers with the Indiana

Department of Natural Resources reported more registration violations last year than any other problem, according to BLA Major Larry Rhinehart, commander of Headquarters & Services.

"Failure to obtain a motorboat registration," he noted, landed many boaters in hot water.

However, he also reported that officers made 60 arrests for boating while intoxicated last year. In all, they conducted 4,760 inspections, boardings and public contacts.

The most frequent problems arise on public freshwater lakes in the north and northeast parts of the state, said Rhinehart. To combat these "hot spots," he told *Small Craft Advisory*, "We are detailing special patrols to these and other areas as well as BWI patrols."

All officers are issued an Alco-Sensor unit. This equipment is financed through federal Wallop-Breaux account funds.

He said officers are using materials supplied by the National Safe Boating Council to promote water safety.

Indiana officers carry sidearms, in this case, the Sig Sauer P220 in .45 ACP.

IOWA

Conservation officers with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources conducted numerous public contacts last year, but an

exact figure is not available.

Boating Law Administrator Rick McGeough reported the most common boating violations are lack of registration, or lack of personal flotation devices.

The state's top hot spots for violations are the natural lakes in the northern half of the state, and they typically involve personal water craft. No special assignments to curb violations are planned at this time, he said.

McGeough said the DNR officers use portable breath testers when investigating OUI offenses. Funding for PBTs comes from general funding from the Fish and Game Trust Fund.

Special enforcement efforts typically do not require overtime, McGeough added.

Activities during National Safe Boating Week included a proclamation from the governor during a special ceremony. Media packets were distributed to media in the state. Materials from the National Safe Boating Council have been used in media packs and as information for recreational safety officers.

Iowa DNR conservation officers carry Smith & Wesson Model 686 revolvers chambered in .357 Magnum. They are equipped with night sights, McGeough said.

KANSAS

Boating law enforcement officers with the

Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks last year reported 12,600 boardings, which equals 13 percent of the entire state recreational boating fleet.

According to Boating Law Administrator Jeff Gayer, the most common violation they encountered was for insufficient or inadequate PFDs. Last year saw six people arrested for boating while intoxicated, he added.

There are eight special enforcement dates scheduled this summer to address problems on several reservoirs that are the state's hot spots. Those will be joint operations with local sheriff's departments and the Kansas Highway Patrol, he added.

Wildlife and Parks officers use portable breathalyzers to help indicate intoxication. The equipment is financed through federal boating funds.

In the event officers must put in overtime, Gayer said they can receive either payment or comp time, at their discretion.

During the opening of National Safe Boating Week, officers set up courtesy vessel inspection lanes at five different reservoirs. That coincides with the Wichita River Festival, at which radio station KEYN and Kawasaki are teaming with the agency for a boating safety publicity blitz. KEYN recently received a NASBLA Public Service Award.

Kansas officers will be switching to the Glock Model 22 in .40 S&W, said Gayer.

MICHIGAN

Michigan sacked dozens of BUI suspects last year, and many are still in the court system, noted BLA Lt. Lyle Belknap, Department of Natural Resources.

When the dust settles, he expects between 50 and 100 convictions.

The only formal inspections Michigan officers conduct are on commercial charter vessels, he added. The most common violation marine patrol officers encounter are for insufficient PFDs.

The state's hot spot would be Lake St. Clair, Belknap suggested. To counter problems there, DNR is working with the U.S. Coast Guard on both general patrols and special marine and OUI patrols.

Portable breathalyzers for on-water use and land testing at a land-based facility are used to detect drunk boating suspects. Breathalyzers are funded from the Michigan general fund and state and federal marine funds.

To kick off National Safe Boating Week, a press day was scheduled on a river boat with industry, enforcement and government personnel. This was also the starting point for the state's special PWC education program.

Michigan officers carry a brand new sidearm, the Sigarms P229 in .40 S&W.

MINNESOTA

Intoxicated boaters had a tough 1994 in Minnesota, reported Boating Law Administrator Kim Elverum.

"There were 123 BWI arrests by county sheriff's deputies and DNR conservation officers," he said.

He had no estimate on the number of boardings and public contacts made last year, though they were abundant. He said the most common violation encountered during those contacts, however, was for lack of current registration or display of numbers, and no, or inadequate numbers of, PFDs. Other big problems are speed violations (no-wake), riding on the transom or gunwales, and BWI.

Elverum said the state's chief hot spots are the metropolitan Twin Cities area, the Mississippi River along the Wisconsin border, and the lake area near Brainerd.

Minnesota officers use the Intoximeter light display breath tester in the field and for evidentiary use, they are required to use the Intoxilyzer 5000 (Minnesota model), which is already in place. They also use urine and blood test kits supplied by the state crime lab. This equipment is financed through federal grant.

The state does fund some overtime for boating enforcement projects through a federal grant. The state has issued Safe Boating Week packets to all counties that have requested the material.

Most county and DNR officers carry semi-auto pistols, he added.

NEBRASKA

According to Boating Law Administrator Leroy Orvis, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission, officers with that agency reported 19,594 boardings, inspections and public contacts last year.

The most common violation they encountered was for insufficient numbers, or complete lack of, personal flotation devices.

Orvis said Commission officers are using portable breathalyzers to combat intoxicated boating. These units have been purchased with a combination of state and federal funds.

He also noted that the state's reservoirs provide most of the enforcement demands.

The agency is mounting its boating and water safety campaign this summer using news releases for broadcast and print media.

Officers with the Commission are issued sidearms. In Nebraska, the choice is the Glock semi-auto in .40 S&W.

NORTH DAKOTA

North Dakota seems to have had a somewhat dry year in 1994, with only one BWI arrest reported, according to BLA Wilmer Pich, North Dakota Game & Fish Department.

As in many other states, the most common boating violation encountered here relates to PFDs. Either there are inadequate numbers, or none at all, he said.

Pich said the Missouri and Red Rivers, and Devil's Lake are the state's chief enforcement hot spots. To deal with drunk boaters, officers use Alert & BUI packets, he said.

When special details are mounted, officers are allowed variable schedules and comp time.

During National Safe Boating Week, Pich will be on the airwaves, and there will also be a PFD giveaway with the assistance of Kawasaki. Also, news releases will be issued.

North Dakota officers are armed with Smith & Wesson .40-caliber semi-autos.

OHIO

According to Dennis Evans with the Division of Watercraft, there were 62 BUI arrests made by enforcement officers last year.

They also reported 10,318 inspections during 1994, he said. The most common violation they found was for insufficient PFDs, no registration and violation of no wake zones.

Evans said officers use RBT III breathalyzers to help detect drunken boaters. Funding for the equipment comes from the Waterway Safety Fund, comprised of revenues from boat registrations.

Occasionally overtime is required for special efforts, and there is a special budget account for such events.

National Safe Boating Week materials were distributed statewide. To kick off that observance, a three-week news series was scheduled in Columbus, Dayton and Zanesville markets. The Division of Watercraft cooperated with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and local Power Squadrons, plus marinas and liveries.

Ohio officers carry Smith & Wesson 9mm or .45 ACP sidearms.

SOUTH DAKOTA

South Dakota had but two reported drunk boating arrests in 1994, said Bill Shattuck, boating law administrator for the Department of Game, Fish & Parks.

Enforcement officers conducted some 5,000 public contacts and boardings last year. He said a new recording and reporting system that will provide hard numbers of contacts, written warnings, verbal warnings is now in place.

This might be handy, since the state has plenty of enforcement hot spots, including Lewis and Clark Lake, Wall Lake, Lake Madison, Brandt Lake and Lake Kampeska. There are no joint enforcement operations, but all these waters do get plenty of attention.

Preliminary breath tests are in general use, but are only used as one of many tests to establish probable cause in the event of a BUI arrest, said Shattuck.

Each of the state's four regions has an overtime budget for enforcement, controlled by the regional supervisor. All overtime is approved by the supervisor prior to any overtime work.

Officers and staff have been using materials from packets in news releases for radio and television programs and appearances, for National Safe Boating Week. Those packets

have been distributed to news outlets, he added.

South Dakota officers are pretty well-equipped, with Glock Model 22 semi-autos in .40 S&W, with night sights. They also carry handcuffs, extra magazines, batons, pepper mace, portable radios and flashlights.

WISCONSIN

In Wisconsin last year, wardens in the Department of Natural Resources' Law Enforcement Division reported 205 OUI arrests, said Boating Law Administrator

Bill Engfer.

Those same officers logged some 78,000 public contacts. They reported that the most common violation was for insufficient or no PFDs.

Lakes are generally the major problem areas, said Engfer, and that's where the majority of OUI violations are found. He said joint OUI operations with local sheriff's departments and the U.S. Coast Guard will occur this year in high-problem areas, primarily along the Mississippi and St. Croix rivers.

Officers use PBTs, portable Intoxilizers,

the horizontal gaze nystagmus test and video cameras to nab drunk boating suspects.

Special operations sometimes require overtime for officers, and funding for this comes from the general overtime fund.

During National Safe Boating Week, the DNR and Hardee's kicked off this year's free ice cream cool twist cone campaign for youngsters who wear PFDs and boat in a safe manor. The agency also started a series of television and radio PSAs that will run through the summer.

Wisconsin DNR officers carry Glock Model 22 pistols chambered in .40 S&W.

WSBAA

American Samoa, Arizona, California, Colorado, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming

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1995 WSBAA Conference: San Diego, California

ARIZONA

The Arizona Game and Fish Department recorded 23 BUI arrests last year, reported Boating Law Administrator Kim Keith.

"We do not have access to other watercraft law enforcement agencies' records," he noted, "but I would estimate that the total arrests would be around 175-200."

Keith told *Small Craft Advisory* that his agency does not keep a record of boardings and public contacts or inspections, but officers did record over 8,000 man-hours of watercraft law enforcement last year. The most common violations they encountered related to PFDs.

The state's top hot spots for violations are along the Colorado River system, including Lakes Powell, Mead, Mohave, Havasu and the river, itself. Three BUI special patrols are scheduled along the river system this summer, and Arizona authorities are working to better coordinate multi-agency patrols.

To detect drunken boaters, officers use portable breath testers and RBTs, he said. These units are financed with state or federal funds, or are donated by local chapters of M.A.D.D.

Some overtime pay is budgeted, and officers may also get comp time for working overtime.

This year, to get greater attention from youngsters for PFD wear, the agency is handing out T-shirts emblazoned with the message: "I Got Caught Wearing My Life Jacket."

Arizona officers carry Sig Sauer semi-auto pistols, chambered in either 9mm or .45 ACP.

CALIFORNIA

Golden State peace officers did a number on drunken boaters last year, according to Megan Standard with the Department of Boating and Waterways.

There were 400 OUI arrests last year.

To nab the suspects, portable breathalyzers

are used. This equipment is purchased by the Department with federal funds, and distributed to local enforcement marine patrols on long-term loan status.

Standard also reported 23,316 public contacts by enforcement officers, who are rangers, lifeguards and sheriff's deputies. Typically, deputies carry sidearms, but rangers and most lifeguards do not. Their issue sidearm varies by department.

She said the most common violations are operational infractions.

The state's hot spots include certain coastal areas, lakes and rivers. For example, the Blythe area along the Colorado River is a hot spot, she said. Enforcement at these areas is done at the local level. She said no joint operations are planned this year.

The Department is operating a pilot radio campaign in Sacramento which began May 19, and will run through Labor Day weekend. This includes daily boating safety PSAs and five on-the-water events. Crowds are expected to number into the thousands, with giveaways including literature, floating key chains and whistles. A personal watercraft may also be raffled, she said.

The education unit is working on billboard displays in boating areas, using National Safe Boating Council artwork.

COLORADO

Dennis George with Colorado State Parks reported that 1994 produced 14 arrests for BUI in the Centennial State.

He said boating enforcement officers reported 26,552 public contacts, and the most common violation they encountered was for insufficient or no PFDs. This offense garners a citation. There are no warnings. The second most common violation was for no observer on ski boats.

George said problems are "pretty much spread around" the state, and there are no specific hot spots. To help identify drunk boaters, officers use portable breathalyzers. They were purchased with funding from a Division of Highways grant and also through boating safety grant funds.

The agency is not planning any special operations this summer, nor are any special activities on the agenda in the aftermath of National Safe Boating Week.

Colorado officers recently adopted the Glock Model 22 in .40 S&W caliber as their issue sidearm.

HAWAII

The Aloha State had no BWI law on the books last year.

According to Faith Evans, acting administrator in the Maritime Law Enforcement Division of the Department of Public Safety, enforcement personnel last year held joint exercises with federal and local police for training.

Last year, there were 519 boardings and approximately 20,000 public contacts. The most common violations encountered were for safety equipment, insufficient PFDs, "rules of the road" infractions and use of unsafe vessels.

Hot spots for enforcement were ocean waters including designated beach swimming areas, vessel roadsteads and anchorage areas. Joint operations continue to monitor vessel operation and watercraft with federal and local law enforcement.

Breathalyzers are used for OUI violations detection, and officers are now training with this type of equipment under authority of federal and local enforcement agencies. The division does not have its own breathalyzer.

Special enforcement efforts do require overtime. Such overtime is paid for from the special fund and general fund allotted to the

department.

There were several events during National Safe Boating Week, including education programs in the schools, public demonstrations and joint state and federal displays.

Maritime Division officers carry Glock and Smith & Wesson 9mm semi-autos.

IDAHO

Last year, Gem State peace officers made 32 BUI arrests, according to BLA Mark Brandt and enforcement specialist Pat Beale with the Department of Parks & Recreation.

They also reported 14,350 inspections and about 100,000 public contacts. The most common violation they encountered was lack of proper registration.

The top enforcement problem is caused by personal watercraft. Because of that, the Idaho Legislature passed tougher legislation on the misuse of PWCs.

To detect drunk boaters, Idaho officers use the Alcosensor III, and about 20 are in field use right now. Jail facilities also have Intoxilizer 5000 units in service, said Brandt.

Some of the equipment is funded via grants from Mothers Against Drunk Driving, and the remainder is funded by federal grant monies.

Many marine enforcement officers are seasonal employees, Brandt explained. They do not get overtime pay, while some full-time officers do.

For National Safe Boating Week, Idaho's governor signed a proclamation, and there were several activities including a "Demo Day" sponsored by sports stores in Boise, a media canoe race, and "Canoe Days" at Discovery Park. Activities were sponsored in key cities.

Idaho boating laws are enforced by assorted police agencies. They supply various sidearms, typically chambered in 9mm or .45 ACP.

MONTANA

There were no arrests last year in the Big Sky Country for BUI. According to acting BLA Jean Sewell with the Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks.

Enforcement officers conducted 4,800 public contacts and boardings in 1994, she added. They found failure to register motorboats and insufficient PFDs to be the top violations.

Rivers, lakes and reservoirs in the western half of the state might all be considered "hot spots." The Legislature passed a bill effective in mid-April of this year that prohibits operating a personal watercraft at greater than no-wake speed within 100 feet of a dock, swimmer, swimming raft, non-motorized boat or anchored vessel on a lake.

BUI suspects are tested for BAC. Funding for the equipment comes from state general funds.

In the event of special operations on holidays, wardens are given overtime pay and comp time.

Montana used public service announcements to call boater attention to National Safe Boating Week.

DFWP wardens carry Smith & Wesson .40 S&W sidearms, said Sewell.

NEVADA

Boating Law Administrator Fred Messmann with the Division of Wildlife told *Small Craft Advisory* that last year saw 29 arrests for OUI and seven for DUI by his officers.

There were 9,817 boardings, 34,460 public contacts and an additional 268 inspections conducted in 1994, Messmann reported. The most common violations they reported were lack of registration, no fire extinguishers, insufficient PFDs, speeding, reckless operation and skiing with no flags.

Messmann said the top hot spots are the Colorado River at Laughlin, Lake Mead and Lahontan Reservoir.

All DOW officers are trained in horizontal gaze nystagmus detection as a means of detecting drunk boaters.

To finance equipment for detecting intoxicated boaters, the DOW uses income from federal grants and state boating funds, plus the Clark County boating facilities grant.

Overtime is limited for special operations.

DOW officers recently switched from revolvers to Smith & Wesson semi-autos, primarily the Model 4046 in .40 S&W caliber.

OREGON

Last year in the Beaver State, there were 75 BUI arrests by state enforcement officers, and another ten by the U.S. Coast Guard, according to Bill Rydbloom with the Oregon Marine Board.

He also reported 19,022 boardings, 73,446 public contacts and 45,148 inspections, he said. The most common violation encountered was for insufficient PFDs.

Rydbloom said there are no definitive "hot spots" for enforcement problems, though most cities are on rivers. To address boating problems, he noted that multi-agency task forces are being utilized with both state and county officers.

To help detect drunken boaters, Alco-Sensors and Intoxilizer 1400 units, along with field sobriety testing, are being utilized. This equipment is financed through federal grants and designated funds, Rydbloom added.

There is some overtime required for special operations, and it is either paid or offset by comp time.

Oregon utilized materials for National Safe Boating Week during its NSBW activities. They were mailed to all county programs and training was provided at a pre-season meeting.

Oregon boating laws are enforced by state and county police agencies.

UTAH

The Utah Division of Parks & Recreation last year reported 11 arrests for BUI, according to Boating Law Administrator Ted Woolley.

State park rangers bagged 15 more drunken boaters, for a total of 26, he added.

Woolley said there were 2,035 boater assists last year, and over 200 citations were issued. The most common violation encountered was for lack of registration, he added.

The biggest hot spot is Lake Powell.

To identify drunken boaters, Woolley's

agency uses field sobriety testing and portable breathalyzers, the Alco Sensor IV. These were purchased via federal grant.

Some special operations require overtime, for which officers receive comp time.

For National Safe Boating Week, the agency utilized billboards and PSAs to bring public attention to safe boating.

The standard issue sidearm is the Glock 17 in 9mm, but the state is upgrading to .40-caliber Gllocks.

WASHINGTON

According to BLA Jim French, Washington Department of Parks & Recreation, there were 31 OUI arrests last year reported to his agency.

Park rangers conducted 4,290 public contacts and inspections. The most common violation found was failure to register the boat.

Hot spots in Washington are urban lakes, and the typical problems include personal watercraft violations for noise.

Rangers use field sobriety tests and horizontal gaze nystagmus testing to detect drunks. Suspects are transported to shore, where they take a BAC test.

Special enforcement efforts involve overtime, said French, and these efforts are supported by reserve officers.

French said boating education promotions are supported with NSBC materials, and there are visits to schools by officers and volunteer instructors, calling attention to National Safe Boating Week.

Local law enforcement agencies provide boating enforcement officers. Their sidearms vary from agency to agency, French said.

WYOMING

There were about six BUI arrests in Wyoming during 1994, according to Russ Pollard, boating law administrator with the Game & Fish Department.

The most common violation that game wardens encountered during numerous boat safety checks was for insufficient PFDs.

Wyoming's hot spots include the Guernsey and Glendo reservoirs along the North Platte River, and along the Snake River. There is considerable out-of-state boat traffic on the reservoirs, and Pollard noted that there are conflicts arising between rafters and personal watercraft users on some of the rivers. Some joint operations to apprehend BUI violators are mounted with the State Patrol and local county sheriff's departments, he said. Under a program enacted over the past couple of years, some overtime compensation is available.

To identify BUI suspects, field sobriety testing is used, including the horizontal gaze nystagmus test.

Pollard noted that National Safe Boating Week was observed with public service announcements and media coverage. Some materials supplied by the National Safe Boating Council were utilized, he confirmed.

Wyoming game wardens carry Beretta 9mm stainless steel semi-auto pistols, he added.

A Job Well Done

Michigan gives awards for service

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources has awarded two of its game wardens, and a member of the U.S. Coast Guard, for their work in boating safety activities.

According to Boating Law Administrator Lt. Lyle Belknap, USCG Petty Officer Timothy Harvey, assigned to the Coast Guard Station in Alpena, was presented with a plaque for his time and effort in DNR inservice training earlier this year.

The award was presented after Harvey "displayed superior appearance and demeanor" and cooperated well with DNR officers. Harvey has "always been available and works well with us," said Belknap.

A pair of DNR wardens also have been honored. Officer Greg Patton received the agency's Marine Enforcement Award for his work as an inspector in the state's charter boat program on Lake Michigan. He also works with the local sheriff's departments on personal watercraft problems and helps with OUI enforcement, said Belknap.

Lastly, DNR officer Philip Wolbrink was awarded for a program he initiated to promote PFD wear by youngsters in his district last year. According to Belknap, the project started when Wolbrink began handing out Lifesaver candies to young children he found wearing life jackets when he did routine boat checks. This effort gathered momentum, and eventually Wolbrink approached the Holiday gas station chain, which donated \$1,700 worth of the Lifesaver candies for handouts.

His effort was also instrumental in getting the DNR's successful PFD giveaway program off the ground, said Belknap. ↓

Idaho's Van Buren lauded for spreading boat safety message



Ann Van Buren

BOISE, Idaho — The Gem State has a real gem in Ann Van Buren.

At least, that's how Boating Law Administrator Mark Brandt, with the Department of Parks and Recreation, tells it. Small

wonder, since Van Buren has increased the reach and hold on the state's 350,000-plus boaters tenfold since she began her duties in January 1994.

"What she lacks in time," said Brandt, "she makes up for in partnerships. She has every agency in this state thinking boating."

Van Buren's most recent accomplishment, according to Brandt, was assisting the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary with sponsoring Idaho Safe Boating Week.

"Ann was in the newspapers, on radio or television every day during the week," said Brandt. "Her abilities with the media have been the high point of our program."

Van Buren has also initiated partnerships with the state Department of Education. This will streamline communications with school districts and universities, and DOE will cosponsor Idaho's certified boating safety instructor workshops. The plan is to develop an annual calendar for statewide distribution and possibly team teaching.

She has also garnered the cooperation of the state Department of Fish & Game by having boating safety topics included in such events as Free Fishing Day and Idaho Outdoors Day. She has also been invited to make a presentation to hunter safety instructors, and write articles for their newsletters.

Van Buren also assisted the USCGA with mailing several thousand course schedules to registered boaters in Ada and Canyon counties, and she also redesigned the

state's boating law brochure.

Her other efforts include:

- Initiating the department's involvement in Water Awareness Week, providing advertising research, developing a banner, contributing to the development of a brochure and poster, and distributing materials.

- Getting the agency involved with Catch a Special Thrill (CAST), a one-day, on-the-water event for disabled and terminally ill youngsters. This event took place on Black Canyon Reservoir and was cosponsored by the Bureau of Reclamation, IDFG and Idaho Bass Federation.

- Spearheading the revitalization of the Idaho Boating Safety Coalition, a non-profit group involving federal and state boating agencies, and private boating organizations.

"Having been promoted up from her position," said Brandt, "it makes me feel I was an amateur. Ann has taken the program to new heights. Idaho's boaters are surely going to benefit." ↓

Wanna host a NASBLA Conference?

Do you want to host the annual conference of the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators?

If so, Ted Woolley wants to hear from you. Woolley heads up the NASBLA site selection process, and now is the time to be selecting the location of the 1998 conference, he said.

This year, NASBLA will be gathering in Las Vegas, Nev. In 1996, the organization will converge on Pittsburg, Pa., and in 1997, they will gather in Charleston, S.C. Contact Woolley at the Utah Division of Parks & Recreation at (801) 538-7341. ↓

Minn. DNR officer, anglers pull children from chilly waters

A Mother's Day accident that could have ended in tragedy instead became a triumph for a Minnesota conservation officer and two sport fishermen.

The trio joined forces to rescue three young girls from the chilly waters of Pearl Lake after their rowboat was blown away from shore by high winds. Two of the youngsters jumped into the lake after their sister fell overboard, or intentionally jumped in to retrieve an oar, according to Minnesota Department of Natural Resources information officer Tim Smalley.

DNR officer Brian Mies and anglers Robert Elke of St. Cloud and H.C. Elke of Minneapolis rescued the three sisters, ages 7, 8 and 10.

According to Mies, also of St. Cloud, the three youngsters panicked.

"The waves were too big, the boat was too small, and they couldn't get back to their cabin," he said. "Life jackets saved their lives. If they hadn't been wearing them, I hate to think of what could have happened."

Mies arrived at Pearl Lake just moments before the incident began unfolding. He was checking the Elke's fishing licenses and all three men spotted one child splash into the lake, said Smalley. They ran to the Elke's boat, but the outboard motor wouldn't start, so Mies dashed to his truck, radioed for assistance, and backed his own boat into the lake. By then, the Elkes had their boat running, and they went after one of the sisters, while Mies headed for the other two with his 16-foot Lund.

"The kids weren't in the lake very long," said Mies. "I suppose it was just five minutes. But they were 500 yards from shore in the middle of whitecaps and the water was only 50 degrees or so. They were in trouble."

By the time the rescuers brought the children back to shore, DNR officer Steve Jacobson had arrived and was waiting with his truck to warm them up. Jacobson drove the sisters to their cabin. When everyone returned to the cabin, they all discussed boating safety, said Mies, who offered his appreciation to the Elkes for their assistance. ↓

Lacey wins Nat'l Boating Education Advancement award from NSBC



Norman Lacey is recognized for his boating education efforts in Alabama. Bill Garner (left) presents the award.

Norman Lacey, director of the Alabama Traffic Safety Center, was awarded by the National Safe Boating Council for his work in boating education in Alabama schools.

Lacey produced the video program *Safe Boating in Alabama*, which is now in use in all 410 Alabama high schools, and is also used in the only college-level boating course in the state that is approved by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators. That course is entitled Motorboat

Safety, and it is taught at the University of Montevallo. Lacey provided the video free of charge to all the schools.

Lacey's work coincides with the passage last year of the Alabama Safe Boater Law. One section of that law requires that a unit on boating safety be taught in all high school driver education courses.

But there was a fly in the ointment. Alabama teachers were not prepared to teach this segment. To meet the deadline, the state board of education called upon the Alabama Marine Police and Lacey to help out. Lt. Bob Huffaker pitched in with Lacey to work on the boating safety course, and they taught the teachers. So far, Lacey has trained over 400 teachers and more than 6,000 high school and college students in boating safety. His lesson plan is being used by the majority of Alabama high school driver education instructors, according to Alabama Boating Law Administrator William B. Garner.

It was Garner who presented the award to Lacey. ↓

Missouri Water Patrol dispatchers honored

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — Four dispatchers for the Missouri State Water Patrol and their supervisor were honored by Gov. Mel Carnahan for their quick work in helping round up two juvenile murder suspects late last year.

Dispatchers Becky Haskamp, Cheryl Holmes, Pat Stubinger and Sharon Chaney, and Sgt. Hans Huenink were honored by a resolution from Carnahan. Within 35 minutes of a shooting at Lake Ozark that claimed the lives of two security officers, the dispatchers had identified the two suspects and photographs had been secured for dispersal to local police agencies. This quick action helped police round up the pair after a 15-hour manhunt.

The suspects were wanted in the double-slaying of security officers Fred Feuser and William Jensen, at a dock outside Jensen's home on Lake Ozark. The youths stole a car from a home in Jefferson City, drove it to the lake and abandoned it, then stole a boat which they crashed into Jensen's dock.

Jensen had called Feuser to the scene after he found the youths going through some of his belongings. When they confronted the suspects, both officers were gunned down.

The dispatchers reacted with cool heads, did some quick research and were able to identify the suspects. A manhunt ensued and early the following morning the pair was arrested at a house near the lake.

Col. Larry Whitten, director of the Water Patrol, called the dispatchers and Sgt. Huenink the unsung heroes of this case. ↓



Missouri State Water Patrol dispatchers are honored for their efforts

Iowa DNR uses new investigation technique to identify lawbreakers

DES MOINES, Iowa — Bad guys in the Hawkeye State are learning the hard way that they shouldn't tell lies in their written statements to the Department of Natural Resources.

Thanks to a developing technology called written statement analysis/scientific content analysis, if they fib, they're foiled.

According to Rick McGeough, chief of the DNR's enforcement bureau, and the Iowa boating law administrator, this technique can be used to pick out falsehoods in written statements, and help identify culprits in cases ranging from poaching to boating accidents. He's seen the technique work, and he is amazed at how effective it is.

One of his supervisors had been to a session detailing the technique and utilized it during a hunting accident investigation, McGeough said.

That supervisor was Randy Edwards, who will take a full four-day course on the technique in Des Moines in mid-June. After merely attending a one-hour seminar on scientific content analysis, Edwards was able to tell who among the hunting party was not telling the truth, and after further questioning, the suspect told all. Edwards is now a true believer.

According to Edwards, the technique was developed by former Israeli Police Lieutenant Avinoam Sapir, now based in

Arizona and operating a business called LSI. The four day course deals not only with written word analysis, but also how to "read" body language, said Edwards. He calls the technique "one more tool" to help develop a line of questioning.

McGeough is so impressed with the method that earlier this year, he held information sessions for his entire enforcement staff.

"We brought our people in two sessions," he recalled. "We (advised) our whole contingent, almost 100 people."

Just how does this work? McGeough and Edwards said the key is to have people make a written statement about their particular case or incident.

For example, if there's been a boating accident with several people involved, they can all submit written statements. Using statement analysis, the investigating officer can key in on certain words or phrases that may indicate the author is being evasive or completely untruthful.

"In boating accidents," said McGeough, "you are almost always taking written witness statements. In an accident investigation, it gives an officer a little more insight into evaluating what they are receiving from people involved in those events."

Statement analysis was developed, he said, "by investigators who spend a lot of time analyzing written statements." ↓

Boating class demand surges in Connecticut

Demand for boating safety courses has exploded in Connecticut, thanks to the state's requirement that boat operators must possess a safe boating certificate.

In its second year, the law is being implemented incrementally so that, by 1998, all boaters will have taken the course, according to Frank Disbrow, education specialist with the Office of Boating Safety, Department of Environmental Protection. The requirement affects all resident boaters, and there are a lot of them. Disbrow said Connecticut has 101,000 registered vessels for its 3.1 million residents.

"The boating class demand is up over 25 percent above last year, and that was our highest year to date," said Disbrow. "This year, we'll have about 372 classes, which is about the same number as last year, but more people are enrolling in each course."

"The professional staff is going to try and be at every final exam that we can possibly make," he said.

Not only does the law affect boaters, but personal watercraft operators as well. For the PWC crowd, the requirements are even more demanding. According to Disbrow, every PWC operator, regardless of his or her state of residence, must have a certificate of operation for the vessels.

The Connecticut PWC course, Disbrow elaborated, is "a 2½-hour intensive course on PWCs, how to be responsible with PWCs. When they pass that, they can get a certificate and go out on the water and have a good, safe time." ↓

Dill back as BLA in Connecticut

Major Randolph Dill has returned as the Connecticut boating law administrator, under the new commissioner of Environmental Conservation, Sidney Holbrook.

Dill, who was BLA from 1984 to 1993, has also been named acting director of the agency's Boating Division. The appointment was effective May 26.

Over the past two years, Dill had served as boating enforcement supervisor. In that position, he was involved with writing legislative proposals relating to wildlife and fisheries. ↓

Marine Patrol handles varied duties *continued from page 4*

In New Hampshire's case, the duties of a marine patrol officer include enforcement of boating and criminal laws, including drug laws. Also, some of his officers are "cross-designated" to serve as customs officers along the state's 18 miles of coastal shoreline.

The largest body of water in the state is Lake Winnepesaukee, with some 250 inhabited islands. McCabe and the Patrol's Mark Gallagher noted that the Marine Patrol is more readily available to deal with problems on those islands than officers from any of the eight municipal police departments in cities around the lake.

Both recall the 1993 "Ninja" incident as being the most unusual case. A trio of black-clad people stormed a house, armed with handguns and stun guns, apparently

in an attempt to kidnap and murder one of the occupants of the home by drowning him in the lake. The plan went awry and police were summoned. Within minutes, McCabe said, officers from the Marine Patrol had the island surrounded and, working with other police agencies, were able to prevent the escape of the perpetrators.

McCabe personally responded to that one and said that within 12 minutes of receiving the call, he was on the water with another officer.

While there may be no such thing as a normal work day for anyone in law enforcement, the fact remains that the role, and responsibilities, of boating law professionals is expanding increasingly into the more traditional police arena. ↓

Michigan conducting youth PFD giveaway program second year; PWC education underway

LANSING, Mich. — The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is in the midst of throwing a "one-two" punch for boating safety.

For the second year in a row, the DNR is conducting a giveaway of personal flotation devices to youngsters. And, to promote personal watercraft education, the agency is working in cooperation with Bombardier in a personal watercraft giveaway for persons who take a PWC "mini boating course."

According to Lt. Lyle Belknap, state boating law administrator, the PFD giveaway for youngsters was a success last

Under this program, said Belknap, a dozen DNR officers are equipped with loaner PWCs who use them during what might best be described as a "mini-water safety" course.

"The workshop runs a couple of hours," Belknap noted.

The program, he said, has the support of the Michigan Boating Industry Association.

People who attend the courses are signed up for the giveaway, which will also come at the end of the summer. The winner will take home a new Sea-Doo PWC. ↓

Idaho boat registrations climb along with population...and recreational boating

COEUR D'ALENE, Idaho — Take it from Mark Brandt with Idaho's Department of Parks & Recreation: the Gem State has plenty of sparkle, so much, in fact, that its population is the second-fastest growing of all the states in the nation.

It's not just Californians, who first invaded neighboring Oregon and then Washington. People from all over are homing in on Idaho, and one side effect is that the boating population is growing, too. That is of particular concern to Brandt, the state's boating law administrator.

Last year, the number of registered boats grew by 6.7 percent, a spike from the traditional increase of between four and five percent, he said. About 17 percent of all the state's registrations

are for boats in Kootenai County, and another 12 percent for boats in Bonner County. These are counties with the state's biggest waters: Coeur d'Alene, Pend Oreille and Priest lakes.

Of the "Big Three," Coeur d'Alene offers the most challenge, because it's the "multiple recreation" lake, where Priest and Pend Oreille are typically dominated by sport fishermen. It's far less likely to find personal watercraft, ski boats, and the like on Pend Oreille or Priest, but it is commonplace on Coeur d'Alene.

Brandt conceded that much of the pressure comes from Washington State, especially residents from the Spokane area.

"When we were selling nonresident

permits," he recalled, "we would sell about 7,000 to nonresidents and most of them went to Spokane County."

To address the pressure on Coeur d'Alene, Brandt said the state has finished a new launch ramp about ten miles east from the city of Coeur d'Alene, and another is planned about one mile west of town, where the lake empties into the Spokane River. He also said other access sites will be spread toward the lake's south end, to help spread the crowds.

While Coeur d'Alene offers the challenge to enforcement officers in the Panhandle, down south the Boise area has

Lucky Peak Reservoir. Located just northeast of Boise, this reservoir gets lots of use from the local population, said Brandt. Thousands of people use it daily during the

summer. A Corps of Engineers capacity study has been completed and may eventually recommend use-zoning on the lake, to separate user groups.

"I think zoning may be the trend we see over the next 20 years," he observed. "We're trying to keep from eliminating uses."

Another hot spot for user conflict is Hells Canyon on the Snake River. Here, the conflict is between jet boats and rafters. There is a plan to separate the two groups, he added.

Idaho, said Brandt, has the highest per-capita rate of boat ownership of any state in the West. There are over 80,000 registered boats for a state population of about 1.5 million. ↓

This year the goal is to give 100 PFDs away at the end of the summer, to further build youth awareness about the importance of life jackets.

year. Seventy life jackets were awarded to youths who returned postcards they received from DNR officers who inspected their family's boats during the summer.

This year, said Belknap, the goal is to give 100 PFDs away at the end of the summer, to further build youth awareness about the importance of life jackets.

"Basically," he explained, "our officers have a postage-paid postcard and when they encounter a boat on the water with kids in it, they give them the cards. Originally, it applied to kids without PFDs, but now it's for all kids, to positively reinforce (PFD wear). The officer signs the card, with his badge number, and the kid can drop it in the mail. At the end of the summer, we'll have a drawing, and then the officers in each area will present the PFDs to the winners."

The life jackets are shipped to the local officers, Belknap confirmed. It's a solid tie-in with this summer's National Safe Boating Council's campaign stressing the need for PFD wear.

For the older generation, there's a PWC giveaway supported by Bombardier. *Small Craft Advisory* detailed this project in the April-May issue.

Maine's Saco River is prime example of enforcement needs vs. limited manpower

FRYEBURG, Maine — The Saco River is a slow-flowing, meandering river that enters Maine upstream from this border community; the kind of sleepy New England stream one might envision finding on a postcard.

So it might be, except during the summer — and particularly July and August — when the Saco is descended upon by hordes of recreationists, primarily along the stretch between Fryeburg and Hiram. It is here where the desire to enjoy some semblance of wilderness collides head-on with the headaches of overcrowding. The boater coming here to relax learns the hard truth: so has everyone else.

This is when the Saco River becomes a textbook example of the problems faced by various enforcement agencies with limited manpower and equipment resources versus steadily increasing public use of a recreational resource.

"We get a tremendous amount of canoeing pressure," said Maine Boating Law Administrator Parker Tripp, chief of the Maine Warden Service.

Added Hank Tyler, who is heading a study group called the Great Pond Task Force, "The Saco River...is within a couple of hours drive of several million people. It's a zoo, no doubt about it."

Tyler's task force this summer will carefully examine the situation, not only along the Saco River, but other waters of Maine where recreationists converge. The group, said Tripp, will look at a broad range of issues dealing with water use, including boating, water quality and watershed management.

But in the meantime, those charged with enforcing the laws are approaching the busiest two months of the year. In the center of this scenario is Lt. Nat Berry of the Warden's Service. He told *Small Craft Advisory* that "there will be a fair amount of focus" on the Saco River. Like Tripp, he's observed the situation over the years, and has a good understanding of what has developed.

"I think what's happening," Berry said, "is (caused by) a great influx of people, the majority of them during the months of July and August, coming from Massachusetts, New Hampshire and

greater New England. It is not unusual to have several thousand people on this river. There is heavy consumption of alcohol, and it develops into some unfortunate situations. They feel they're in the wilds of Maine and they can do anything they please, and we're saying they cannot; they've got to comply with the laws and behave in a prudent manner."

The enforcement burden is considerable, despite the fact that the area is served by the Maine Warden Service, the state Forest Service, Fryeburg Police Department, Oxford County Sheriff's Department and the Maine State Police. That may seem like a lot of law enforcement, but it's really not.

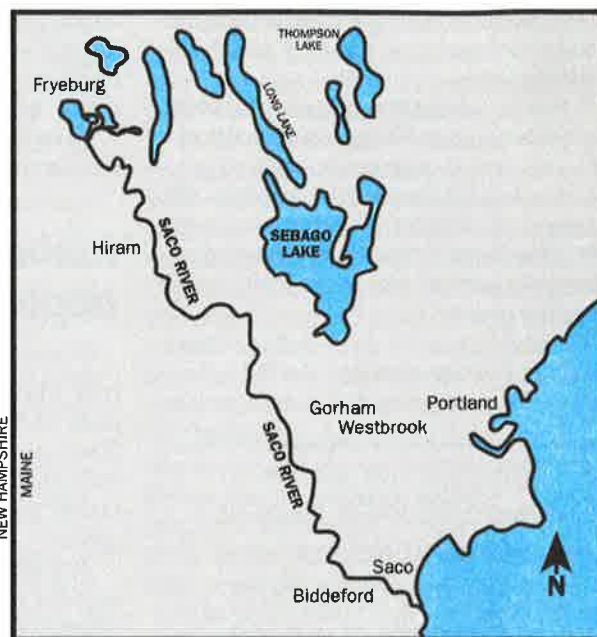
In actuality, Berry estimated that at any given time, all of these agencies may literally have but a handful of personnel on duty. The city, county, state and forest service have no watercraft. Patrolling the river is a job solely for the game wardens, and the Saco is hardly their only responsibility.

In this section of Maine, there are many waters, including big Sebago Lake. With the exception of the city police, an officer working for any of the other agencies has a patrol area that can cover over a hundred square miles.

But the Saco exemplifies the kind of problem faced by boating law enforcement agencies just about everywhere there are large gatherings of people. Faced with budget constraints and manpower limits, there are only so many officers to go around, and only so many hours in a day.

Working in Berry's favor is Maine's OUI law, which has a .08 BAC tolerance level, and the fact that, like anywhere else, the major problems are generally created by a minority of the people.

But those problems run the gamut,



from drownings to drug violations.

"We have made arrests for everything from not having life jackets to assaults," Lt. Berry noted.

Typically, alcohol is a contributing factor, but Maine authorities have the law on their side. In Maine, it's illegal to drink in public, and since the river is public property, citations can be issued and arrests can be made.

Unfortunately, despite training for officers that enables them to get the drunk offenders off the water, once they've got someone in custody, they have to take them to jail. The downside, Berry acknowledged, is that the officer is no longer available to patrol the area.

"We're going to try to keep a presence out there," Berry assured.

BLA Tripp noted that the Great Pond Task Force may come up with several recommendations based on its findings. He suggested that possible solutions might include user fees, with the revenue dedicated to enforcement.

But that's still in the future. In the meantime, emphasis patrols, continued cooperation between all the agencies involved, and what might be called the "110-percent effort" by field personnel will have to do. ↓

Illinois ramp checks nab BWI suspects

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — Checking for intoxicated boaters as they pull into public ramps has proven to be one of the most effective ways to intercept the drunks in Illinois before they become drunk drivers.

The strategy, according to Tom Wakolbinger, deputy chief of the Department of Conservation's Law Enforcement Division, has been effective enough to earn grant support from the Department of Transportation.

"We watch for some probable cause," Wakolbinger explained, "when they're docking, because that's one of the toughest things to do when you are drunk. We can then get them ashore and do a field sobriety test."

This is the second year Wakolbinger's division has received grant support from DOT, and for good reason. It did not take much explaining to DOT officials to convince them that a person who comes ashore drunk will attempt to drive home in that condition. Then the individual becomes a drunk driver.

Wakolbinger acknowledged that many of the offenders are actually nabbed as DWIs, simply because they've made it to their vehicles. However, regardless where they are actually arrested, the bottom line to Wakolbinger and his colleagues is that they are off the street.

"We tried it on a small scale last year," he recalled, "and we got a bigger grant this

year. We told (DOT officials) that a conservation agency, dealing with crowded boating areas, is going to get more 'bang for the buck'. Since it is legal to drink on a boat, but not legal to drive drunk, you can imagine the potential for abuse."

Transportation officials evidently saw the potential, and so have local chapters of Mothers Against Drunk Driving. Wakolbinger, who doubles as Illinois boating law administrator, noted that local MADD chapters have provided some portable breathalyzers for the agency's use.

"MADD's been real supportive," he added. "We've got several chapters in Illinois and we have no problem accepting equipment donations from them. In fact, our director, Brent Manning, encourages that."

To help the agency accept donations of money or equipment, this year the Department of Conservation established the Conservation Foundation. Business and the public can make contributions to the agency through the foundation, and even earmark where those donations should go. For example, said Wakolbinger, an individual or a company with an interest in hunting might donate to the foundation and earmark their contribution for waterfowl habitat. That's where the money will go, he said.

By the same token, MADD groups can provide equipment or cash donations to help keep drunks off the roadways, and that's exactly what will occur.

Meanwhile, Wakolbinger said the division is considering the purchase of replacements for the boat fleet, but with finances tight, that may not happen quickly. He said there are still boats in the fleet that have been in service since early in the last decade. The vessels are inspected annually, and officers keep them clean, but that hasn't prevented deterioration due to normal wear and tear.

One strategy that will keep officers on the water, including 14 new officers added this year, is the assignment of patrol boats to specific districts, and rotating crews on those vessels.

"We may have two people on a boat on Saturday, and two different people aboard on Sunday," he explained.

However, before too much longer, he observed, "we need to put some serious money in our boat fleet." ↓

PA boating safety goes 'Hollywood'

HARRISBURG, Pa. — There's "no business like show business," as the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission seems to have discovered.

Their 1995 safe boating campaign has hit the silver screen.

According to Virgil Chambers, education specialist for the commission, the agency has prepared a simple public service announcement, in the form of a slide projected on a theater screen, to remind moviegoers about boating safety. The slide shows a family of boaters with this message: "Do you need a better reason to boat safely?"

There are at least five multiplex theaters participating in the program, and each has about ten separate theater screens. The message appears on every screen during their between-movie advertisements.

Chambers actually came up with the idea for the slide presentation at theaters, and when Pete Colangelo came on board as executive director of the Commission, he quickly okayed the proposal. Chambers had done a poster with a similar message some years ago, and it worked. The spots were produced by the National Cinema Network.

"I've found you can deliver a subtle message without knocking (boaters) over the head to do this or that," said Chambers.

Why theaters?

"We have a captive audience," Chambers explained. "They are upscale, intelligent adults with discretionary income. They go to a movie and unwind, and see a message about boating safety. It's kind of a different twist."

The message appears on screen at least three times during a theater's advertising shorts. ↓

USCG wants comments on propeller guards

The U.S. Coast Guard is seeking public comment on a proposed rulemaking project to establish mandatory requirements for propeller guards on recreational houseboats and other non-planing vessels.

The proposal follows several reported boating accidents involving propeller strikes, including one accident in 1993 involving a rented houseboat.

Deadline for comments is July 10. They may be addressed to the Executive Secretary, Marine Safety Council, U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, 2100 Second Street SW, Washington, D.C. 20593-0001. Telephone number is (202) 267-1477. ↓

Vermont adds officers, patrol boat

Eleven new auxiliary troopers have been hired to fill vacancies in the Vermont State Police's marine division, and there is an additional patrol boat in service this year, on Waterbury Reservoir.

Sergeant Alan Buck, Vermont boating law administrator, said all 11 officers will be busy this summer. Each officer went through basic academy training, a two-week boat handling course and many hours of additional training, teamed with senior officers. They have full police powers.

The biggest job, of course, is patrolling Vermont's section of Lake Champlain.

"It's 118 miles long and two-thirds of it is in Vermont," said Buck. "It's the sixth-largest lake in the nation."

Buck acknowledged that the workload is increasing on the state's other waters as well. Many of the challenges on smaller inland lakes can be traced to what Buck called "user confrontation." He said there are conflicts arising between user groups, including fishermen, quiet recreationists, water skiers and personal watercraft riders.

A prime example could be Waterbury, a central-state lake known widely for its smallmouth bass fishing. It is considered a pristine water, and there is a state campground on it with very little private property along the shores. It has attracted the attention of many user groups and, Buck explained, "It is at the center of a fight."

"The water skiers want to use it, the quiet users want it, fishermen want access to it. It's gotten rather heated at times, but calmer heads have prevailed," said Buck.

This summer the State Police Marine Patrol is having a greater presence on the lake, thanks to Buck's efforts at "scrounging" a boat that was being sold by the U.S. Coast Guard. The end result is that there is a 17-foot center-console one-man patrol boat now on duty on Waterbury. ↓

Georgia's Brown learns about Israeli boating enforcement

ATLANTA, Ga. — The Middle East may seem a strange environment for learning new approaches to boating law enforcement, but Georgia Boating Law Administrator Lt. Col. Joel Brown has learned otherwise.

Brown was one of 11 senior law enforcement officials from Georgia who were able to participate in an exchange program through the Georgia State University Criminal Justice program. He spent about ten days in Israel, during which he learned about Israeli law enforcement training, their marine patrol and about security that will be helpful for the upcoming Olympic Games next year in Atlanta.

According to Brown, his group included two county sheriffs, the commissioner of public safety and several local police chiefs from Georgia municipalities. During his visit, Lt. Col.

Brown was able to ride on one of the Israeli 36-foot marine patrol vessels. He also learned that Israel has a community policing program, not unlike what many American police departments have.

"The most interesting thing of all," Brown reported, "is that their biggest problem (on the water) is personal watercraft on the Mediterranean and the Sea of Galilee. They have recreational boating out there, and personal watercraft have become a problem. They call them waterbikes. They are beginning to have accidents."

Last year, he noted, the Israeli government imposed a 300-meter shoreline zone inside of which PWC operation is restricted or prohibited.

The visit, said Brown, "was very enlightening, and personally and professionally rewarding." ↓

Florida's 'Bobber' proving his worth

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — It's been just over two years since he was introduced as the "mascot" for the Florida Marine Patrol and the Game and Freshwater Fish Commission, and in that time, "Bobber" has proven his worth as a tool to educate youngsters about personal flotation devices.

Bobber debuted in the Sunshine State with the simple message to young people:

"Sinkers are Stinkers...
Be a Bobber."

According to Major Jim Green, the state's boating law administra-



tor, the message has been sinking in, while keeping children afloat.

Bobber was created by the Marine Patrol in 1993, with the assistance of Fyvolent Whitmore Advertising in Tampa. The cartoon character is designed to look like a round fishing float, and he is colored red, white and blue. The timing of Bobber's arrival was no accident. He appeared just a couple of months after Florida enacted a law requiring children under age 6 to wear a PFD anytime they are aboard a boat in operation.

The Bobber character now appears on posters, flyers, public service announcements to all the major Florida media, and on decals. Green said there's an effort underway to work with a life jacket manufacturer to produce Bobber PFDs. No vendor has been selected as yet, but Green is confident that this will happen shortly.

"When you interview people, especially young people, they're saying things like 'I know I should be wearing my PFD,' and 'I wear it most of the time'," Green reported.

In his third high-profile summer season, Bobber once again is carrying the safe boating message to youngsters. ↓

President's Message continued from page 2

investigation training and reporting; 3) electronic information transfer program (third phase of the three-year plan to develop and implement a nationwide electronic data transfer system for transferring boating accident data from the states to the Coast Guard); 4) Boating Risk Analysis model development; 5) national recreational boater survey; and 6) volunteers in boating/

grassroots support project.

We feel that NASBLA has the expertise and leadership to compete very effectively with anyone with regard to recreational boating issues and we are putting our money where our mouth is. The main portion of the 1995 recreational boating season is here. Let's also put our expertise and leadership to work on the water. ↓

Nebraska enlists support from personal watercraft firms for patrol program on reservoirs this year

Nebraska boaters this summer are seeing, and sometimes they're *not* seeing, patrol officers on at least two of the state's major reservoirs, riding personal watercraft.

The PWCs are being loaned to the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission's Law Enforcement Division by Kawasaki and Sea-Doo, according to Boating Law Administrator Leroy Orvis.

"It is a pilot program," Orvis noted, "to see how it works. It's been successful in a lot of states."

Conservation supervisor Dick Furley, stationed in Alliance, told *Small Craft Advisory* that one PWC officer will be assigned to Lake Minutaire near Scott's Bluff and another will be at Lake McConaughy on the North Platte River just north of Ogallala.

"Our plans," said Furley, "are to do basic law enforcement patrol for boating, safety checks and equipment, and monitor boating activities."

The ability of personal watercraft to maneuver into shallow waters makes their addition a plus, Furley indicated, because

officers will be able to get back into areas where larger patrol vessels simply cannot go. This will make it possible to check fishermen in the shallows, or work into areas that might have snags or other obstacles that would impede larger boats.

One other thing they will do is go faster than patrol boats, thus allowing officers to pursue and catch the occasional violator who decides to run. In the past, he acknowledged, some violators have been able to speed away from regular patrol vessels and mix into the crowds that sometimes gather in the bays around reservoirs.

Furley said the officers may use the machine to work undercover, mingling with other PWC operators and helping control some of the drinking and party problems, particularly at McConaughy. "We'll be able to ride among these people and have personal contact," Furley observed.

Roger Hagie, director of public affairs for Kawasaki and chairman of the Personal Watercraft Industry Association (PWIA), said Kawasaki originated the loaner program in 1989, and now other PWC manufacturers have gotten involved.

"We've had loaners at one time or another in probably every state," he noted. "We've loaned well over 1,000 units and maybe up to 2,000 units, since 1989."

The program is run through local dealers, Hagie explained. The retailer makes all the arrangements and gets a payment deferral from the manufacturer for up to one year.

The PWCs "tend to be very reliable," he added. "A couple of sets of spark plugs throughout the season — in terms of preventive maintenance — tends to take of it."

Hagie forecast increased use of PWCs by enforcement agencies as their popularity spreads through the boating public. Last year, he recalled, 142,000 personal watercraft were reported sold by the various manufacturers, and the year before that, 107,000 were sold. That was up from 79,000 sales in 1992, and the trend does not appear to be slowing down.

"The National Marine Manufacturer's Association tracks sales," Hagie said, "and personal watercraft sales over the past three years represent over 25 percent of all powerboat sales." ↓

Pennsylvania's Erie Task Force unites for boating safety

ERIE, Pa. — A coalition of police and citizen organizations has launched an effort here to battle intoxicated boaters.

The Erie Safe Boating Task Force is a voluntary alliance of educational and enforcement agencies and organizations. It includes representatives from the U.S. Coast Guard, Coast Guard Auxiliary, U.S. Power Squadron, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, Presque Isle State Park Service, Erie County Office of Drug and Alcohol, Tri-State Trauma Services, Erie County DUI Advisory Council and the Greater Erie Boating Association. Their mission is to provide the boating public with information on boating safety, and to coordinate cooperation between the agencies.

Created in 1994, the task force has sponsored aerial safety banners on holiday weekends and during special water events. They developed a television PSA campaign, sponsored by local businesses. During last year's National Safe Boating Week campaign, the Task Force sponsored a kickoff

luncheon and media demonstration at the Erie Yacht Club.

This year, the task force has developed a statewide billboard campaign that focuses on boating while intoxicated. In addition, the task force will be organizing

safety programs at local boat shows and community events as part of its educational activities. In cooperation with local retailers and beer distributors, the task force is conducting a "Sober Skipper" program throughout the summer. ↓



North Dakota's new boating law becomes effective Aug. 1

BISMARCK, N.D. — New legislation that will affect the operation of all recreational vessels, and personal watercraft in particular, takes effect Aug. 1 in North Dakota, confirmed Boating Law Administrator Wilmer Pich.

Under the new law, reckless or negligent operation of a motorboat or vessel is defined as "weaving through congested motorboat or vessel traffic, jumping the wake of another motorboat or vessel within one hundred feet of the motorboat or vessel, or in any other manner that is not reasonable or prudent."

Though there was both strong support and opposition to the legislation, it passed out of the Legislature and was signed into law in early April.

The new law also defines a personal watercraft as "a motorboat that is powered by an inboard motor powering a water jet pump or by any inboard or outboard marine engine and which is designed to be operated by a person sitting, standing or kneeling on the craft..."

Pich told *Small Craft Advisory* that throughout the legislative process, which included six public hearings, there was confusion among the bill's critics that this law is aimed entirely at personal watercraft. "This is not just a 'jet ski' bill," he insisted, "but for all boat operation."

The 100-foot zone also applies to operation of any vessel in the proximity of fishermen along the shoreline, swimmers, a swimming/diving raft or an occupied, anchored or non-motorized vessel. There's also a 250-foot prohibition against operating near no-wake zones.

A section dealing with PWCs prohibits their operation unless all those aboard are wearing U.S. Coast Guard-approved PFDs, and skiers may not be towed unless an observer is aboard. The towing restriction also applies to knee boards, inflatables and other devices.

Kill switches are required on PWCs, and lanyards must be attached to the operator. It is also forbidden to chase or harass wildlife.

Support for the new law was reinforced by last year's accident statistics. North Dakota reported 22 boating accidents in 1994, of which 14 involved PWCs and a 15th was traced to PWC operation. The latter accident, Pich explained, involved boaters who were towing water skiers, but

were distracted by a nearby PWC, and the skiers were injured as a result.

"This should accomplish slower operation in areas around docks, boat ramps,

places like that," said Pich, "where there is a lot of heavy traffic, near misses and some accidents. It will give enforcement officers a little better guidelines, too." ↓

New York PFD loaner program worked last year, is being repeated this year

Program for youths unveiled for summer

ALBANY, N.Y. — A PFD loaner program conducted last summer by the New York Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation was so successful that the agency is repeating it this year.

Boating Law Administrator Nelson Potter, director of Marine & Recreational Vehicles for the agency, told *Small Craft Advisory* that the "Loaner For Life" program worked very well as a pilot project in 1994. The agency acquired a couple hundred personal flotation devices in various sizes for both adults and juveniles, and issued them to some 15 park police units.

"When we come across a boat with insufficient or damaged PFDs," Potter detailed, "the operator may still get a ticket, but at least when we shove off, we know they are now equipped with enough PFDs to make a safe journey."

In addition to repeating the "Loaner For Life" program, Potter said his agency is also mounting a new program aimed at youngsters. It's called "Yorkey's PFD Pals," and it involves handing out boating activity coloring books and Yorkey's stickers to children who wear their life jackets. Yorkey is a bear that is the agency's mascot, Potter explained.

"When the park police do their

boardings," he said, "and find kids with life jackets on, they give the kids a sticker."

But how does anyone gauge whether any lives are saved by such programs? Last year, when the Loaner For Life pilot project was conducted, the boating fatality figures climbed slightly from the year before. This was due, said Potter, partly to a number of multiple-fatality accidents.

This year, accident figures could drop. There is no way to predict, but Potter is convinced the PFD loaner program will help. Most of last year's accident victims were not wearing life jackets, he stressed.

One thing Potter can confirm is that last year saw the return of every single PFD that was loaned out. He recalled one that was shipped back via UPS, and it probably cost the sender more than the price of the life jacket.

Each PFD is emblazoned with the agency logo and a message: "Please Return When Trip Is Through."

The Parks Agency is also renting billboards again this summer to carry the National Boating Council's message about PFDs. This is also an effective way of reminding people to use life jackets, said Potter. ↓

New BUI law in Massachusetts

continued from page 3

danger, upon a bet or wager or in a race, and for the purpose of making record subsequently violating speed limits. It's also against the law to cause a hit and run, or intentionally falsify an application for a certificate of number. Conviction of these violations can bring fines ranging from \$50 to \$500 and jail time ranging from 30 days to two years.

• State law is amended to include the crime of homicide by a vessel while under the influence of an intoxicating substance. Conviction under this statute can bring a

jail sentence ranging from two to 15 years and a \$5,000 fine.

The new legislation also allows the graduated penalties for "like offenses" so that driving a motor vehicle while intoxicated and boating while intoxicated carry the same penalties.

"It's really a sea change in the way we're dealing with BUI," said Chenier.

Massachusetts BLA Col. Richard Murray added, "These new penalties reflect the seriousness of operating a vessel while intoxicated and are long overdue." ↓

Pennsylvania moves forward with regulations for livery operators

Improving the boating experience for recreational boaters who rent their vessels is the thrust of a strategy underway in Pennsylvania that involves rental boats.

According to Virgil Chambers, education specialist for the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission's Bureau of Boating, "The rental businesses are very critical to developing the right attitude (among boaters)."

Chambers suggested that the better a boating experience turns out for renters, the higher the probability that they might later purchase their own boat.

The agency has distributed the National Livery Safety System program to rental operators, Chambers explained. This was accomplished with a grant from the U.S. Coast Guard to canoe liveries throughout the state who requested the program. The system includes videos and handouts for the canoe renters to view so they will be better informed on the safe operation of a canoe.

"We feel that for many people, their first-time experience is in a rented boat," Chambers observed, "and if we can give

them a positive experience by alerting them to the safe operation of boats, and that there are rules and regulations, this will set the stage for safety, should they go out and buy a boat."

One key ingredient of this strategy is a decal for rental boats, including personal watercraft. Chambers said these decals have a summary of the regulations applicable to the particular vessel. In addition, the program encourages livery operators to provide some type of instruction to each renter for the safe operation of the vessel.

At the same time, Chambers reported that Pennsylvania and New Jersey have been cooperating on some regulations for the Delaware River. These regulations are primarily for power boats and especially for personal watercraft.

"The problem is user conflict," said Chambers, "and landowner/boater conflict, the concerns that these boats are noisy and that they may be unsafe. A lot of these are perceptions and we want to educate personal watercraft operators in that area to be respectful of others on land and on the water." ↓

Zany musical group performs Wisconsin life jacket PSA

They're called "Bananas At Large," and they've been the featured artists in a new public service announcement for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, calling attention to the importance of life jacket use.

The PSA began airing this month, confirmed Boating Law Administrator Bill Engfer.

Bananas At Large is best known for its deer hunting classic *The Turdy Point Buck*, but the group should gain more fame — at least locally — for this radio spot.

The band, the DNR and the Wisconsin Broadcasters Association joined forces to produce the PSA and promote life jacket wear. The spot will run statewide this month as part of the safe boating campaign that kicked off with National Safe Boating Week.

"They (the band) contacted us," Engfer recalled.

He said the group wrote their PSA around a new federal law requiring wearable PFDs for everyone on board a small recreational vessel. They took this information, wrote a catchy tune called *Don't Forget Your PFD* and agreed to let the DNR distribute the song to radio stations.

"It's a fun song," said Engfer. "It tends to stick with you."

The group's artistic directors, Gary Nilson and Shane Totten, are serious outdoorsmen and take the safe boating rules seriously, as well. However, they acknowledge that the characters they portray in the band "can't step in a boat without sinking it."

Bananas At Large is already working on a hunting safety message that will be available to radio stations in the fall. And, the "Turdy Pointer" may make his television debut as part of that safety campaign. ↓

Handling PWC problems, Arizona-style

PHOENIX, Ariz. — Attacking the problem of careless personal watercraft use has taken a new tack in the Grand Canyon State, according to Mark Quigley, Arizona Game & Fish Department.

An enforcement officer, Quigley told *Water Safety Journal* that "probably most of our tickets go to personal watercraft now."

However, instead of a fine, Quigley said the agency has worked with the court to require violators to take an eight-hour course on safe personal watercraft operation.

"A lot of them are going through the course," he said. "They are going to school."

What PWC offenders learn during the course could save their lives, the lives of friends, or other boaters. It's not that PWCs are dangerous, Quigley insisted, but "they can be operated carelessly if the operator chooses." He placed blame squarely on the shoulders of operators who violate the common sense rules of boating.

Arizona passed a PWC law that requires PFD wear by all on board, mandates that the operator attach a lanyard to the kill switch if one is present, and prohibits operation within 60 feet of another vessel except within no-wake zones where the maximum allowable speed is 5 mph. There is also a prohibition against operating a PWC so that it leaves the water (wake jumping).

Quigley said "sharp turns" are a big problem with PWC operators. He recalled cases where operators have sped toward one another, swerving sharply at the last moment before impact to avoid a collision. There have been times when operators were thrown from their PWCs and subsequently struck by another PWC.

"We've had a lot of accidents here," Quigley said. "The craft doesn't need to be operated like that." ↓

SMALL CRAFT ADVISORY

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National Association of State Boating Law Administrators

Ohio weatherman receives NASBLA Public Service Award



Meteorologist Mike Davis with WBNS 10TV in Columbus, Ohio received a NASBLA Public Service Award for his work on a week-long boating series on the station's afternoon news program. Ohio Boating Law Administrator Paul Gregory presented the award to Davis. During the series, Davis focused on a different topic with each broadcast. His topics ranged from navigation to a hands-on power boat course offered by the Ohio Division of Watercraft. The series wrapped up with a program on safe boating on the hour-long news feature The Heart of Ohio. WBNS also sponsored a ramp inspection day in cooperation with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary heavily promoting the locations around central Ohio where boaters could have their vessels checked out to see if they had all the proper gear. The series was produced in cooperation with the Coast Guard Auxiliary, Ohio DNR and Columbus Power Squadron. (Photo courtesy Ohio Division of Watercraft.) ↓