



s m a l l c r a f t a d v i s o r y

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n a t i o n a l a s s o c i a t i o n o f s t a t e b o a t i n g l a w a d m i n i s t r a t o r s

2006 BOATING OFFICER OF THE YEAR

2006 BOATING OFFICER OF THE YEAR



Corporal
Elizabeth Ratliff
State Water Patrol
Missouri

**NASBLA Honors Best
in Boating Safety**

**Hats Off to
Outstanding Officers**

**Coast Guard Offers Valuable
Course for Boating Officers**



Jeff Johnson
NASBLA President



John Johnson
NASBLA Executive Director



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

NASBLA Leaders Urge Stakeholders to Persevere with Strategic Plan

When Europe fell to Napoleon in 1805, only the British Royal Navy stood in his way. In one of a series of historical novels written by Patrick O'Brian, "Captain Jack" Aubrey and the Man-of-War HMS *Surprise* became engaged in a furious battle with a nautically superior French privateer. During the heaviest salvo, as the *Surprise* was riddled with shot and the men scrambled for cover, Aubrey – ignoring the danger surrounding him – grabs a young lieutenant off the deck and says, "We have to stand tall on the quarterdecks, son, all of us." We believe that the commitment of dedicated members, who stood tall on the quarterdecks particularly during the tough times, has made NASBLA the organization it is today. Their efforts were the key to accomplishing the successes that our association has experienced to date.

Your executive board and staff feel a strong sense of respect for the association's past accomplishments and its traditions as we continue working to move our organization forward. This year, we will remain on the path we started down under the leadership of Presidents Randy Edwards and Charlie Sledd, as we proceed to complete and implement NASBLA's strategic plan.

Wells Fargo CEO Richard Kovacevich once noted, "I could leave our strategic plan on a plane, and it wouldn't make any difference. No one could execute it. Our success has nothing to do with planning. It has (everything) to do with execution." There's no question that our success, as well, lies in the execution of our plan. But the plan's goals represent enormous potential for our association.

For example, the plan's first goal is to achieve our legislative agenda both with respect to recreational boating safety and homeland security. Securing a more favorable match requirement for the state grant program will allow every state and territory to benefit fully from the fruits of the new reauthorization. The potential to become a formal part of the homeland security grant apparatus will benefit not only our boaters and critical waterway

infrastructure but our entire maritime nation. The second goal is to create and launch a high-caliber, nationally recognized training and credentialing program. This will help to advance state and local law enforcement efforts on the water and shape the future of the marine law enforcement profession.

Both of these goals aim squarely at strengthening the ability of our member agencies to carry out the recreational boating safety mission to safeguard the boating public and our nation's myriad, multi-use waterways. These will be among our key strategic challenges, and our opportunities, for the near future. We will also continue to provide leadership and support to the recreational boating safety community as we work to implement an array of strategic objectives such as our annual conference, the spring boating law administrators' workshop, *Small Craft Advisory* and a variety of other professional publications, seminars and educational standards.

In modern nonprofit organizations, the implementation of strategic plans largely falls on the shoulders of staff (if the organization has staff), on "volunteer staff" such as our members and associates, or, as in our case, a combination of the two. Standing tall on the quarterdecks as a committee member, board member or a NASBLA partner or associate is both an opportunity for professional growth and a way to give something back to an organization that has provided us with so much. By actively participating, we come to realize that the "they" in this association is really "us." We sincerely hope that every state and associate member will make the most out of these opportunities.

We look forward to an exciting and productive year. Your executive board and staff are fully committed to making that happen. We plan to keep you informed of our progress along the way, and we hope you will offer your feedback, suggestions and collaboration as we move forward together.



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ABOUT THE COVER

Corporal Elizabeth Ratliff teaches boating safety to a class of schoolchildren. During her 10 years with the Missouri State Water Patrol, Corporal Ratliff positively affected many water recreation enthusiasts, including children and adults alike. Her devotion to boating safety education and enforcement earned her the distinction of being named NASBLA's Boating Law Enforcement Officer of the Year for 2006. She's the first woman to hold this title.

Photo courtesy Missouri State Water Patrol

Five Accident Investigation Courses Scheduled for 2007

The National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) continues offering various training geared toward boating law enforcement officers. A popular course is the Level 1—Comprehensive Boating Accident Investigation seminar.

Filled with valuable information, this course provides law enforcement officers the opportunity to advance their skills in accident investigation. The seminars also provide critical data to help shape boating safety regulations across the country.

Participants are presented with a wealth of information, including accident statistics, definitions, case histories, technical instruction, proven investigation techniques and more. The course focuses on data collection at the scene as well as the reporting and analytical skills necessary to complete an investigation.

NASBLA is holding five Level 1 Boating Accident Investigation seminars in 2007. The dates and locations are below.

- January 8-12.....Long Beach, California
- February 12-16.....Dallas, Texas
- March 12-16Concord, North Carolina
- April 16-20.....Syracuse, New York
- May 14-18.....Minneapolis, Minnesota

The accident investigation seminar is intended for active local, state or federal marine law enforcement officers who are already versed in boating enforcement but who lack technical accident investigation training. Students should be active recreational boating accident investigators. The course content and training aids given in the seminar make it especially appropriate for boating law enforcement training personnel. The seminar is also recommended for supervisory personnel.

Visit www.nasbla.org for more information and to register for a seminar. Registration is typically limited to 60 attendees per seminar, so be sure to apply early.



Mark Your Calendars

The 48th annual NASBLA Conference will be held September 5-10, 2007, in Burlington, Vermont.

Due to the busy fall foliage season in New England, the conference is scheduled slightly earlier than normal. In addition, to take advantage of lower hotel rates, the 2007 conference will have a different day pattern. Please note the schedule below:

- Wednesday, Sept. 5 . . .New BLA Workshop**
- Thursday, Sept. 6Executive Board**
- Friday, Sept. 7Committee Briefings, Opening Ceremony, President's Reception**
- Saturday, Sept. 8General Sessions**
- Sunday, Sept. 9General Sessions, Breakouts, Off-site Event**
- Monday, Sept. 10General Sessions, Awards Banquet**



Research Assistant Joins NASBLA



Ryan Love, NASBLA Research Assistant

Ryan Love, a senior at the University of Kentucky, joined NASBLA in September 2006 as a research assistant. He was hired to help with the nonprofit's marketing needs. One of Ryan's first tasks was to help prepare for the annual NASBLA conference. Following the conference, he has assisted other NASBLA staff members with day-to-day tasks.

Prior to coming aboard NASBLA, Ryan interned at the Kentucky League of Cities (KLC), where he helped the Communications Department by writing magazine articles and news releases; collaborating on an advertising campaign for KLC's sister organization, the NewCities Institute; writing grant proposals; and creating various publications that were distributed statewide.

A native of Lexington, Ky., Ryan is pursuing a bachelor of arts degree in Integrated Strategic Communications, with a Creative Path, and a minor in Psychology. He plans to graduate from UK in December 2007.

An avid UK football and basketball fan, Ryan attends as many games as he can to cheer on the Wildcats. Ryan enjoys being outdoors anywhere in Kentucky, especially in the fall. He participates in many sports, including hiking, camping and boating. Although he really enjoys living in Lexington, after graduation he might like to move to experience different people and places.

NASBLA Conference Imparts Invaluable Information

By Ryan Love

From September 22-27, 2006, nearly 300 people gathered in Louisville, Ky., home of the Kentucky Derby, for the 47th annual conference of the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA).

The attendees – including boating safety and enforcement officials from around the United States and territories – met to discuss issues regarding recreational boating safety, connect with peers and recognize individuals for achievements made throughout the year.

Although the conference did not officially begin until Sunday, there were several meetings held on the preceding Friday and Saturday. On Friday, a workshop was held for new Boating Law Administrators (BLAs) to give an overview of the history of recreational boating safety programs, to let BLAs know about resources for managing their state's programs and to share how NASBLA can provide learning opportunities to make their new appointment as BLA easier. On Saturday, NASBLA's Executive Board met, as did the National Safe Boating Council Executive Board. Also, a Coast Guard workshop was held for the BLAs.

On Sunday morning, prior to the opening ceremonies, an orientation was held for all first-time attendees. This was a chance for new people to get to know each other and learn a little about what goes on at a NASBLA conference. After



The National Association of State Boating Law Administrators held its 47th annual conference Sept. 24-27, in Louisville, Ky. The conference attracted approximately 300 participants to discuss issues regarding recreational boating safety, connect with peers and recognize individuals for achievements made throughout the year. *Staff photo*

orientation, the committee meetings began. Each committee met for 45 minutes to discuss the work they had done over the previous year and any new model acts or resolutions that had been developed.

Sunday evening marked the official beginning of the conference with the Opening Ceremonies. After Lt. Mike Fields, of the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, and George Ward, Secretary of the Kentucky Commerce Department, welcomed the attendees to Kentucky, Sgt. Rex Burkhead with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources gave a moving rendition of "My Old Kentucky Home."

Next, Admiral Thad W. Allen, Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard, gave the evening's keynote speech. He discussed the grant match requirement for the boating safety side of the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund and pointed out that under the current authorization, more than 15 states will be unable to use their full allocation of funds for recreational boating in fiscal year 2007. Admiral Allen expressed his commitment to assist NASBLA in obtaining funding for state marine law enforcement agencies to partner with the U.S. Coast Guard and provide more mitigation of the vulnerability of the nation's waterways. Admiral Allen also explained how the country is safer now than before 9/11. He discussed how security operations differ on water than on land or in the air. He said managing the seas involves the coastal states and marine domain awareness. He

will establish a committee in Coast Guard headquarters to implement security information, fishing interests, and awareness and interception methods, all leading to increased security.

Monday began with a business meeting for electing the new NASBLA board. The general session featured discussions on the public health approach to injury prevention; state regulation of commercial vessels; agency planning and response for national disasters; and a homeland security video interactive training systems.

On Tuesday, one of the main events was an on-water demonstration of boats and related equipment that took place on the Ohio River. Tuesday afternoon was dedicated to breakout sessions. One popular session included poolside demonstrations of water survival techniques for boating law enforcement officers. Other breakout sessions discussed the implementation of water trails for paddlesports, skin cancer prevention, boating accident reporting, communication techniques between the U.S. Coast Guard and the states, unifying state education programs, the use of new sonar equipment and Internet-based accident reporting.

Wednesday wrapped up the conference activities with a couple more sessions about boating accidents, marketing boating safety and boating under the influence. Wednesday afternoon was devoted to the NASBLA business meeting in which BLAs voted on various action items. The conference ended with the Past President's reception, award banquet and preview of the 2007 annual conference in Burlington, Vermont.

Editor's Note: Several conference presentations are available online at www.nasbla.org.



During NASBLA's annual conference, the National Transportation Safety Board recognized New Mexico, Oklahoma, Rhode Island and the U.S. Virgin Islands for meeting specific criteria in boating safety:

- The implementation of a mandatory education program that eventually will cover all recreational boaters.
- The mandatory use of life jackets for children under age 13.
- Strengthened alcohol and boating laws including at a minimum a defined blood alcohol concentration and implied consent; and
- The inclusion of personal watercraft information in all state boating courses.

NASBLA HONORS HIGH-ACHIEVERS in Recreational Boating Safety

By Kimberly Hermes

The National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) recently presented numerous awards recognizing professional achievement in boating safety. The honors were bestowed during the organization's annual conference, held Sept. 24-27, 2006, in Louisville, Ky.

Life Member Awards

The Life Member Award is bestowed upon a former member of NASBLA who no longer serves (or will no longer serve) in that capacity, either through a change in duties, retirement or other reasons. Three people received a Life Member Award in 2006:

- Mike Choma – former Wyoming BLA
- Richard Rice – former Hawaii BLA
- Kenny Neely – former Mississippi BLA

Distinguished Life Member Award

This Distinguished Life Member Award recognizes those former members of NASBLA who served as a NASBLA committee chair or board member during their boating career:

- James Horan – former Washington BLA, NASBLA Board Member
- Jerome Madrid – former New Mexico BLA, NASBLA Board Member

Six Selected for President's Special Awards

During his term, NASBLA President Charlie Sledd selected four individuals and two organizations for special recognition for their contributions to boating safety and NASBLA over the past year:

- National Boating Federation, in honor of the organization's 40th anniversary;
- BoatU.S., in honor of the organization's 40th anniversary;
- Bill Dance, professional angler, for his public commitment to boating safety and his dedication to always wearing a life jacket;
- Randy Edwards, Iowa BLA and NASBLA Past President, for initiating NASBLA's strategic planning process and internal reorganization;
- Nancy Gogle, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, for her longtime work with NASBLA's Boating Accident Investigation Reporting & Analysis Committee and her efforts in helping refine the U.S. Coast Guard's Boat Accident Reporting Database (BARD); and
- Carl Perry, for his longtime work with NASBLA as Regulatory Coordinator with the U.S. Coast Guard.

NBSAC Chairman Receives New Leadership Award

One of the more prestigious awards presented was NASBLA's new *William B. Garner Boating Safety Leadership Award*. James P. Muldoon, chairman of the U.S. Coast Guard's National Boating Safety Advisory Council (NBSAC), received the inaugural award.

Sponsored by American Boating Education, the *William B. Garner Boating Safety Leadership Award* was created in memory of Bill Garner, who served as boating law administrator for the state of Alabama. For more than 40 years, Bill Garner served the citizens of his state in the Alabama Marine Patrol and its predecessor boating safety agencies. During his watch, Garner succeeded in marshaling the nation's first boat operator licensing law through the state legislature. Against overwhelming odds and substantial opposition, Garner's foresight, tenacity and legislative initiative coupled with his career in public service left a legacy of leadership that set a new standard for the national recreational boating safety program. Bill Garner will long be remembered as one of the true champions of recreational boating safety.

NASBLA established the *William B. Garner National Boating Safety Leadership Award* to recognize and commend the accomplishments of those rare individuals whose vision, persistence and willingness to go beyond the status quo puts them on the frontier of recreational boating safety. *The Garner Leadership Award* is envisioned to honor those men and women whose foresight and perseverance have ultimately had a strategic impact on recreational boating safety at the national level.

A longtime champion of boating safety, Muldoon is founder and chief executive officer of METCOR, as well as chairman of the board for Learning Systems International (LSI). Prior to founding METCOR, Muldoon worked on Capitol Hill for five years as an assistant to a U.S. Senator.

An avid sailor, Muldoon has been actively involved in international sailing and boating-related organizations for the past 20 years, including the U.S.



Longtime boating safety champion James P. Muldoon (at left) receives the William B. Garner National Boating Safety Leadership Award from NASBLA President Charlie Sledd. An avid sailor, Muldoon has been involved in several sailing and boating-related organizations for 20 years. *Staff photos*

delegation of the International Sailing Federation, US SAILING, the U.S. Coast Guard Foundation, the American League of Anglers and Boaters, and the Brendan Corporation Sail Training Program for Youths with Learning Differences, which he founded. In addition, he has worked tirelessly in support of full funding and authorization of the Sport Fish Restoration & Boating Trust Fund. As chair of NBSAC since 1998, Muldoon has done an outstanding job in keeping the Council on task to make boating safer and more enjoyable through their important advice to the Coast Guard.

Nevada Boating Official Receives Lifetime Achievement Award

Nevada Boating Law Administrator Fred Messmann received the 2006 Lifetime Achievement Award. First presented in 1998, this award is designed for persons who have contributed to boating safety over his or her lifetime or career.

An avid outdoorsman, Fred Messmann became one of the first persons that the Nevada Division of Wildlife (NDOW) placed directly into law enforcement right out of college.

Instead of going to college after high school, Messmann joined the U.S. Navy. He served several tours on the U.S.S. King – a guided missile frigate – during Vietnam.

Messmann joined the Nevada Division of Wildlife in 1974 as a seasonal boating officer/intern. He earned his bachelor of science degree in wildlife management from the University of Nevada - Reno in 1978. Upon graduation, Messmann hired on with NDOW and was placed directly into law enforcement. He became a full-time boating officer/game warden on Lake Mead and Lake Tahoe. In 1989 he was promoted to his current position of boating law administrator.



Joe McCullough with the Alaska Office of Boating Safety received NASBLA's Boating Safety Award from NASBLA President Charlie Sledd. The award was presented in honor of McCullough's longtime dedication to educating Alaska's boaters.

During his career, Messmann has fulfilled several leadership roles in the boating safety arena. He served as president of the Western States Boating Administrators Association in 1993, vice president of the National Water Safety Congress from 1994 to 2000, and president of NASBLA in 2004. In addition, he has chaired numerous NASBLA committees, served on the National Safe Boating Council, the International Association of Marine Investigators, the American Boat and Yacht Council, and the Marine Council of Underwriters Laboratories. He also began serving on the National Boating Safety Advisory Council (NBSAC) beginning in 2002.

Alaska Boating Education Coordinator Receives Boating Safety Award

Joe McCullough, boating safety education coordinator for the Alaska Department of Natural Resources' Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation, received NASBLA's 2006 Boating Safety Award.

The Boating Safety Award was first presented in 1992. It is awarded to a state or local government individual who is involved in boating safety, but does not serve as a boating law administrator, and who has demonstrated outstanding performance in any area of the program. Beginning this year, the award is sponsored by the National Safe Boating Council, a longtime partner of NASBLA.

Joe McCullough is truly the "ambassador of



Having devoted his career to boating safety, Fred Messmann was recently honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award. Presented by NASBLA President Charlie Sledd, this award was given in recognition of Messmann's unwavering devotion to improving safety on the nation's waterways.

boating education" in Alaska. Since becoming the state boating education coordinator, McCullough helped launch the state's fledgling boating education program. Working long hours and giving up weekends, he has taken the phrase "on the road" to a completely new level. By jet, float plane, ATV, trail and boat, McCullough travels to the far-flung corners of the nation's largest state to teach boating programs. To date, he has taught more than 900 Kids Don't Float classes, reaching over 17,000 Alaskan students of all ages. In his spare time, he worked with partners to produce and release Alaska's new film *Cold Water Boating*, highlighting the risks of cold-water immersion and the importance of wearing life jackets.

A commissioned officer, McCullough provides quality marine law enforcement training for both Alaska State Trooper recruits and seasoned officers. In addition, he trains state volunteer instructors and manages the state's boating safety instructor registry.

McCullough is an outstanding example of a boating safety professional who consistently goes beyond in the quest for excellence to deliver quality boating education and law enforcement training.



Before beginning the annual awards ceremony, NASBLA paid tribute to many of its past presidents. In attendance at this year's conference are (front row, left to right) Kim Elverum (1988), Larry Rhinehart (1995), Ed Carter (1996, 1997), Alvin Taylor (2003), Charlie Sledd (2006), (back row) Paul Donheffner (2000), Carroll Henneke (1986), Steve Hall (2002), Bill Enfinger (1999), Fred Messmann (2004), Jim French (1993), Randy Edwards (2005) and Charlie Clark (1994).

Safety Coalition Receives NASBLA Award

The Coalition of Parents and Families for PWC Safety received the 2006 NASBLA Award. This is the oldest award presented by the nonprofit organization. First presented in 1969, the NASBLA Award is given to a person or persons who have contributed to NASBLA and boating safety in general.

In January 2000, a core group of parents and families of personal watercraft (PWC) accident victims formed the Coalition of Parents and Families for PWC Safety. Each family had lost a child or had children who were experiencing lasting injuries, and they resolved to do what they could to help others avoid having to endure similar experiences.

Since its establishment, the Coalition has worked to improve boating safety by bringing attention to the need for

- 1) increased caution while operating personal watercraft;
- 2) boater education by PWC operators, as well as all other boaters; and
- 3) design changes to address the human factor in PWC operation.



Shown from left to right, Karen Steely, Jan Iserman-Wilhite and Nita Boles accepted the 2006 NASBLA Award on behalf of the Coalition of Parents and Families for PWC Safety. NASBLA President Charlie Sledd presented the award to the safety organization in recognition of the Coalition members' ongoing efforts to increase boating safety, particularly PWC safety.

The Coalition became an associate member of NASBLA in the fall of 2000 and shares NASBLA's goals for promoting boating safety. They work with federal, state and local government entities to encourage education of active and

potential PWC operators. Members also educate the public through smaller venues, such as local water safety coalitions, Safe Kids Coalitions and news media events.



Boating Law Enforcement 2006 OFFICER OF THE YEAR

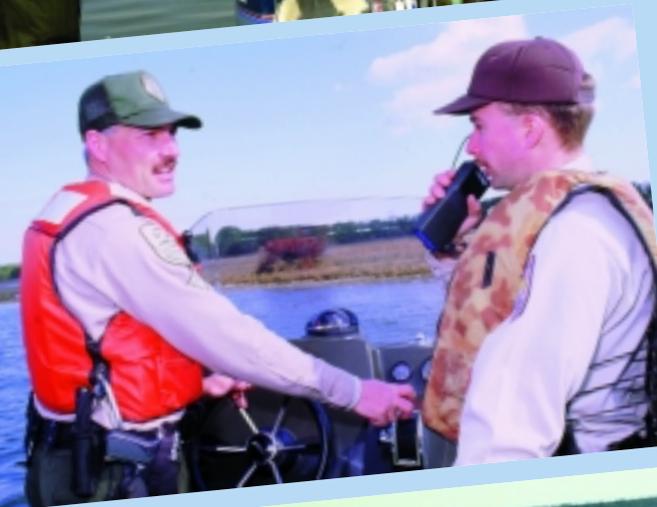
A Tribute to Boating Law Enforcement Officers

The responsibilities of today's marine enforcement officers encompass a wide diversity of disciplines. Boating officers are responsible for much more than enforcing laws. They must also educate the public, save lives, facilitate wildlife conservation, provide security on the water, among numerous other duties. Often officers go above and beyond the call of duty. It is these boating law enforcement officers whom we honor in the following pages.

The National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) developed the Boating Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award in 2000 to recognize outstanding boating law enforcement officers. Each state selects a boating law enforcement officer. These officers then compete for one of three regional awards. The three regional officers of the year then vie for the national award. This year we had candidates from 35 states and territories nominated for this program. The officers described in the following pages represent the top boating law enforcement officers in the nation.



Ohio DNR/Michael Williams



Virginia DGI



Minnesota DNR

www.NASBLA.org

Sponsored with the generous support of ACR Electronics Inc.





ACR Electronics Sponsors Annual National Boating Officer Award

More than 10,000 people owe their lives to ACR Electronics Inc. Based in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., ACR, a Cobham Company,

designs and manufactures a complete line of safety and survival products and accessories. ACR's quality systems have been registered by Underwriters Laboratories. Recognized as the world leader in safety and survival technologies, ACR has provided safety equipment to the aviation and marine industries, as well as to the military, since 1956.

With the company's focus on saving lives, Ron Crowder, Executive Director of Sales for ACR Electronics, and Scott Swanby, ACR's Outdoor, Aviation and Government Sales Manager for North America, were eager to sponsor the Butch Potts Boating Law Enforcement Officer of the Year award for the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA). ACR has signed on to sponsor the award for 2006 through 2009.

NASBLA developed the Boating Law Enforcement Officer of the Year award to recognize and honor outstanding service to recreational boating. The award symbolizes the highest level of achievement among boating law enforcement officers in the United States.

Since its founding 50 years ago, ACR has endeavored to provide the best electronic life support and signaling equipment modern technology could devise. This commitment to the quality of its products catapulted the young company into the forefront of the safety and survival industry. ACR rapidly became established as a leading supplier to the search and rescue communities, both commercial and government. ACR's continuing commitment to excellence and the high quality and dependability of its equipment have made the company a world leader in the dynamic field of safety and survival.

For marine markets, ACR manufactures a full range of Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRBs), emergency VHF radios, man overboard lights, emergency life jacket lights, search lights, strobe lights, and search and rescue transponders (SART). ACR manufactures the world's smallest, fastest EPIRBs and continues to bring life-saving equipment to the marine market.

For more information about ACR Electronics Inc., visit www.acrelectronics.com.

NATIONAL recipient

Butch Potts Memorial Award Boating Law Enforcement Officer of the Year

While working as a Missouri State Water Patrol Officer, Elizabeth Ratliff was selected as the Butch Potts National Boating Law Enforcement Officer of the Year by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators. NASBLA President Charlie Sledd presented the award during the organization's 47th annual conference held Sept. 24-27, 2006.

Sponsored by ACR Electronics Inc., this award is given in recognition of outstanding service to recreational boating. It symbolizes the highest level of achievement among boating law enforcement officers in the United States. Staff photo



**Corporal
Elizabeth Ratliff**
State Water Patrol
Missouri

Corporal Elizabeth Ratliff worked for the Missouri State Water Patrol for 10 years. She was assigned to Lake of the Ozarks, then transferred to Table Rock Lake in southwestern Missouri, where she worked one of the busiest areas on the lake.

Assigned to a region that typically sees a lot of boating activity, Corporal Ratliff was consistently one of the leading officers in making boating under the influence arrests. She also provided training on CPR, first aid, and first responder issues to other officers. In addition, she served as the primary investigator in various boat accidents and always made sure to treat victims of boating accidents and their families with kindness and compassion.

During Memorial Day weekend in 2005, Corporal Ratliff was the primary investigator in a boating accident that involved a boat running

aground. Her investigation resulted in boating manslaughter and boating assault charges being filed on the boat operator. Corporal Ratliff's assistance at the scene and the personal support she has provided to the victims and their families was crucial to their closure in the tragedy. This incident illustrates Corporal Ratliff's consistently supportive and helpful nature in tragic situations.

Missouri Boating Law Administrator Colonel Rad Talburt, who nominated Corporal Ratliff for the boating officer of the year program, commented that her professionalism has positively affected many water recreation enthusiasts. In addition, Talburt noted that Corporal Ratliff always performed the tasks of a law enforcement officer in an upbeat, cheerful and positive manner.

In addition to her enforcement duties, Corporal Ratliff served as the public information and education officer for her district, which included a 15-county area of southwest Missouri. She made a concerted effort to reach the boating public to inform and

educate them. Her experience and personal skills were evident when communicating with the media. She established herself as the primary liaison with various regional media. While maintaining relationships with various members of the media, Ratliff also wrote informative articles and filmed public service announcements. Corporal Ratliff was also the primary education officer in southwest Missouri. She conducted most of the voluntary courses in that region, in addition to numerous boating and water safety programs in local elementary schools. Always looking for a better way to reach boaters, she developed several different boating safety PowerPoint presentations. She also coordinated a very successful T-shirt program with the Table Rock Lake Army Corps of Engineers. The program rewards children for wearing their life jackets while boating.

Since her nomination for the award, Elizabeth Ratliff has moved on to a different job. She now works as a park ranger with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Texas.

REGIONAL recipients

NORTHERN Region Recipient



Senior Officer
Dave Crusier
Department of Natural Resources
Indiana

Officer Dave Crusier has worked for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division since 1995. His primary assignment is Hamilton County, which includes Geist and Morse reservoirs, approximately 20 miles of the west fork of the White River, and several additional miles of creeks and streams. Officer Crusier's enforcement efforts for 2005 accounted for 149 arrests and 42 warnings, including 25 individual boating while intoxicated cases.

Last year, Officer Crusier attended national training seminars to enhance his enforcement skills. One course he completed was NASBLA's Boating Under the Influence Detection and Enforcement Training. He then shared the training with fellow Indiana conservation officers. BUI arrests increased statewide as a result. Officer Crusier also used this BUI training to create the "Indiana Conservation Officer's Field Sobriety Test Performance Report" to assist in investigations.

In addition to his enforcement efforts, Officer Crusier is very involved in public outreach. Last year, he participated in 114 public appearances related to boating education. These efforts accounted for 431 individual boating education certifications in 2005 alone. Officer Crusier also assisted with the boating portion of the Indiana Conservation Officer's Youth Camp and with the Indianapolis Boat Sport and Travel Show, as well as reservoir homeowner meetings throughout the summer. Officer Crusier also maintains positive relationships with local media contacts. He is frequently relied upon for television and newspaper interviews concerning boating-related events and activities. He uses these opportunities to promote a safer boating environment for the public.

WESTERN Region Recipient



Game Warden
Randy Arnold
Fish, Wildlife and Parks
Montana

During his 10-year career with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Game Warden Randy Arnold has spent a vast majority of his time regulating and educating Montana's boating public. A dedicated officer, he strives to meet the demands of the growing recreational boating public. He patrols three major reservoirs, varying his work schedule to be on the water during peak-use times.

While stationed in Missoula, Montana, in the mid 1990s, Game Warden Arnold spent many hours patrolling the Clark Fork River, Bitterroot River and Blackfoot River Corridor – each of which sees a high level of activity. During his work on the Missoula area rivers, Game Warden Arnold employed his white-water rescue training on several occasions. The experience he gained was brought to his current duty station in Helena, where water-based recreation on Canyon Ferry, Hauser and Holter reservoirs comprise a major component of wardens' duties. Canyon Ferry Reservoir presents particular challenges with over

35,000 surface acres in a location that often presents unique open water and often-dangerous situations. Game Warden Arnold has done an outstanding job using his training, knowledge and experience while working with the recreational public in this busy and complex environment.

Throughout his career Game Warden Arnold has shown dedication and commitment to teaching water safety. He has taught numerous courses in water safety and vessel use. Last year he conducted water safety/enforcement training for a multi-agency boat certification. Game Warden Arnold's expertise is recognized not only by his agency but also by the local, state and federal agencies and he is frequently called upon to assist with various operations.

NORTHERN region



Sergeant Eric Lundin
Department of Environmental Protection
Connecticut

Sergeant Eric Lundin is an 11-year veteran of the Connecticut State Environmental Conservation Police. He has been the sergeant for the western zone of the marine district for more than two years. He is an active member of the Department of Environmental Protection (D.E.P.) Law Enforcement Division's Boating Accident Reconstruction Unit and has been a member since its inception in 1998. Sgt. Lundin coordinates joint operations for boating under the influence, vessel noise and commercial shellfish enforcement with local marine law enforcement agencies and the U.S. Coast Guard in the western end of Long Island Sound.

Sgt. Lundin is a certified instructor through the Connecticut Police Officer Standards Training Council in boating law, boating accident investigation, boating under the influence, and marine theft and fraud. In April 2005 Sgt. Lundin participated in a statewide boating law enforcement seminar in which he instructed in the area of boating under the influence. In addition, he instructs in the areas of marine theft and boating laws at the Lake Patrol Officers course each year. He conducted a marine theft/fraud class for the Wethersfield Connecticut Police Department in June of 2005.

Sgt. Lundin is an instructor for the Connecticut D.E.P.'s Boating Division for the Basic Boating and Personal Watercraft courses. He was named the Boating Division's Boating Instructor of the Year for 2005 because of the number of courses he taught. In 2005, he completed the D.E.P.'s Quality Boating Teacher Proficiency Certificate Program.

Sgt. Lundin has been a member of the International Association of Marine Investigators since 1996. He was elected to the Board of Directors in March 2005. He serves as chairperson for the Training Committee and is a member/proctor on the Certified Marine Investigators Committee. He represented Connecticut at IAMI Regional Training Seminars in Louisiana and Maine in 2005. He holds the U.S. Coast Guard Masters Captains License.



Corporal Thomas Penuel
Division of Fish and Wildlife Enforcement
Delaware

Throughout 2005, Corporal Thomas Penuel responded to several reports of vessels in distress and other emergencies. He responded in all weather conditions and saved several lives.

During the busy July 4th holiday, Corporal Penuel responded to a medical emergency on a small island owned by Delaware State Parks. His quick response and subsequent emergency care actions helped save the life of an elderly man.

Corporal Penuel has shown great proficiency at investigating boat accidents. His investigations have resulted in several arrests for negligent operation involving large recreational vessels that sustained large amounts of damage. He has also volunteered for several special operations targeting boating under the influence and negligent operation.

Corporal Penuel has always had a "can do" attitude. He's willing to take on any assignment before him. This officer displays superior marine officer enforcement skills on a daily basis.



Conservation Police Officer Jeffrey D. Cariens
Department of Natural Resources
Illinois

Before Conservation Police Officer Jeffrey Cariens took over the main patrol boat operator duty, his district averaged only two operating under the influence (OUI) arrests per year. In 2005, CPO Cariens made seven individual arrests and assisted in seven others, making him responsible for 14 OUI arrests.

In 2005 CPO Cariens worked 295 hours on boat patrol, which produced 121 citations and warnings. He also worked 53 hours focusing on waterfowl hunters. He investigated five boat accidents as well as responded to several stranded and boat-in-distress calls, some of which were in the middle of the night.

Cariens remains active in his community. In 2005 he made several boating safety presentations to sportsmen's groups, students and boaters. He also worked with the city of Mt. Vernon, private land owner and private lake associations to

educate them on how the state boating laws applied on their bodies of water. He chose to take a proactive approach to these private issues rather than a reactive approach. The effort has produced positive results.

CPO Cariens' positive attitude, enthusiasm and initiative have increased the productivity and public safety of his district's boat patrols. In addition, his example has inspired other officers to meet his standard.



Conservation Officer Shawn Meier
Department of Natural Resources
Iowa

Conservation Officer Shawn Meier began his career with the Law Enforcement Bureau of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources in March of 1998. He is assigned to Cedar County, but routinely works the key water areas in adjacent counties including Coralville Reservoir and the Mississippi River. These are high-use areas with a great deal of boating activity. He is always eager to fill in on boating assignments when needed and routinely works a variety of hours, both day and night on the water.

Officer Meier is looked upon as the "local BWI expert" and routinely works closely with the other officers in his district, assisting them with boating while intoxicated (BWI) cases and follow-up. He is always willing to assist and share his knowledge and skill in processing BWI cases, which has further professionalized and streamlined this process within his district. He has demonstrated good judgment in processing BWI cases and treats the public with respect and professionalism. Over the summer in 2005 he helped coordinate and participated in four BWI special projects. He also provides the monthly certifications for the PBT units within his district. Officer Meier's extra effort dramatically increased the confidence, motivation and activity of the other officers.

Officer Meier is a lead boating instructor who assists with the annual training of seasonal water patrol officers. He plays a key role within this instructor group. His knowledge, experience and teaching skills are valuable and effective. This is important not only for teaching the seasonal officers the laws but the importance of how to deal with the boating public professionally. This promotes a positive image of the agency as well as helps make those seasonal officers more effective.

Officer Meier is a highly motivated, dedicated professional who works hard to educate

the public as a whole on boating and water related issues. His calm manner, friendly demeanor and leadership skills set an example for other officers.



**Officer
Dave Adams**
Wildlife & Parks
Kansas

Officer Dave Adams is a self-motivated employee who strives to achieve maximum performance for any duty he is assigned. After working with the Kansas Department of Transportation and the Kansas State Park and Natural Resource Authority, he became a conservation officer in 1994.

Officer Adams was very active in boating education during 2005. He participated in several boating safety education programs and demonstrates great enthusiasm in educating the public. From May through September, promotional efforts for boating safety were sponsored by individual businesses who donated cash and prize vouchers to be awarded to boaters who voluntarily wore their life jackets and had their vessels in compliance with state law. Officer Adams gave away all of his allotted envelopes and requested more.

Officer Adams excels in his law enforcement duties. He compiled over 480 hours devoted to boating enforcement during the summer of 2005, with a large portion of this time spent patrolling his assigned reservoir and several smaller bodies of water. He issued 87 violations toward personal watercraft operators and administered the breathalyzer test to individuals found operating under the influence. Officer Adams conducted the highest number of vessel checks, breaching the 200 mark. This was a new system requiring hard data to be recorded and sent into the operations office to be placed into a database.

Officer Adams volunteered to assist with the Katrina relief effort and spent two weeks in Gulfport, Miss. assisting with the hurricane cleanup and body retrieval. He was part of the first wave of department employees deployed to Mississippi.

The primary custody and control trainer for Region 5, Officer Adams instructs physical control methods, pressure point control techniques, pepper spray, impact weapons and handcuffing. Officer Adams has researched and is incorporating water-based self-defense training to be utilized by the department.



**Marine Patrol Sergeant
Paul F. Joyce**
Department of Marine
Resources
Maine

Marine Patrol Sergeant Paul F. Joyce is a 19-year veteran of the Department of Marine Resources. He was promoted to sergeant in 2003.

Sgt. Joyce has become the go-to person when it comes to boating safety issues within the agency.

He has established a long tenure of designing and instructing safe boating programs in many different venues. Throughout the 1990s he was involved in numerous outdoor educational programs. He has been involved with numerous boating safety sessions in the classroom. Sgt. Joyce has served as the boating safety instructor for the Department of Marine Resources since 1997. He has also been a volunteer "Boating Basics" instructor for the Department of Inland Fish and Wildlife.

Through the years, Sgt. Joyce has taken advantage of many boating safety training opportunities, including Advanced Boating and Accident Investigative School, Maritime Law Enforcement School in Virginia, Federal Boating School in Georgia and the Federal Boating Safety Instructor's course. He is also a certified instructor through the Alaska Marine Safety Education Association.

Sgt. Joyce has used his training and expertise not only as a training officer for his agency but also as a valuable resource to the boating community at large. He is responsible for the supervision of marine patrol officers in the Casco Bay region. Portland, Maine's largest city, is located on Casco Bay and represents the center of Maine's recreational and commercial boating activity. Sgt. Joyce has conducted fishing vessel safety courses for anglers in Southern Maine, as well as a boating safety program for the Department of Conservation. He also assisted with a boat, fire and safety investigation seminar for the State Fire Marshall's office.

He has taken the lead of the Bureau of Marine Patrol's development of its "large vessel safety program," under which each section of the division conducts exercises to ensure that crews are well versed in all aspects of boating safety and emergency procedures. Sgt. Joyce has created a model program for other sections within the bureau to follow.

Sgt. Joyce is always eager to talk about and participate in boating safety issues whether it means dealing with the Maine Association of Sea Kayaking Guides and Instructors, teaching a

"Boating Basics" class, coordinating a boating safety detail for his officers or dealing with federal fisheries vessel safety concerns.



**Officer
John Traghese**
Environmental Police
Massachusetts

Officer John Traghese has been an exemplary public servant throughout his 25-year career as field officer with the Massachusetts Environmental Police (MEP). He is widely respected as a true law enforcement professional, dedicated to the agency's boating safety mission.

Officer Traghese has been involved in the execution of numerous boating safety patrols on the Connecticut River and inland lakes in the state's western region. Regardless of the nature of the patrol, Officer Traghese's proactive approach focuses on accident prevention through fair and uniform law enforcement. His response to accidents, search and rescues, violations, or user conflicts is timely and effective, with consistently solid follow-through. His excellent investigative skills, accurate and meticulous report writing, and thorough case preparation usually results in positive outcomes for the public. He is a true team player, coordinating smoothly with officers and freely assisting them as called upon.

Officer Traghese coordinates the MEP's marine search and recovery program in conjunction with the Massachusetts State Police Tactical Operations Unit. He is an accomplished boat operator and has participated successfully in numerous search and recovery operations. Officer Traghese approaches this task, which is well beyond normal duty, with great pride.

Officer Traghese's collaborative skills were also evident in his outstanding efforts to address multiple problems in Westfield, Mass., at Hampton Ponds – a heavily used state recreational area. In recent years this popular facility, particularly its public access area, had become inundated with illegal activity, including boating safety violations, stolen personal watercraft, and controlled substance abuse. Officer Traghese took the initiative to formulate a plan of action in a collaborative effort with several groups. These efforts resulted in a marked reduction in violations, a more positive image for the area, and ultimately the construction of a new public access ramp facility.

Officer Traghese has been very active in conducting public boating safety courses to large groups throughout his career. His classes have

become very popular with boaters due to his hands-on teaching approach, a willingness to share his extensive, practical boating knowledge, and his contagious sense of humor and enthusiasm. He intuitively understands the critical connection between these boating education programs and the law enforcement mission toward making waterways safer.



Conservation Officer
Gary Forsberg
Department of Natural
Resources
Minnesota

Conservation Officer Gary Forsberg began his career as a deputy sheriff with Wilkin County Sheriff's Office in 1986. He transferred to Benson as a police officer and then worked as a deputy with the Swift County Sheriff's Office. In February 1990, he became a conservation officer with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. After his initial training, he was assigned to Appleton. Later, he transferred to Fergus Falls, located approximately 50 miles southeast of the cities of Fargo and Moorhead.

Officer Forsberg's work area covers a good part of Otter Tail County, which has over 1,000 lakes and is heavily used by anglers and boaters each summer. Since it is near Fargo-Moorhead, the county receives use from both Minnesota and North Dakota residents who have homes on the many lakes or utilize the many resorts or campgrounds in the area.

During 2005, Officer Forsberg spent about 430 hours on open water enforcement activities, primarily boating and angling. One of his major projects was working Otter Tail Lake (almost 14,000 acres) three times on a task force with both DNR officers and Otter Tail County Sheriff's Deputies. Emphasis was placed on impaired watercraft operation detection and enforcement. In addition he worked two other boating safety enforcement campaigns with his fellow officers in the Pelican Rapids area. He has also worked with North Dakota Game and Fish Officers on the Red River of the North, which runs between the two states.

Officer Forsberg made several presentations on boat and water safety to local sportsmen's clubs and lakeshore associations. He also taught boating safety in the Fergus Falls Schools, emphasizing personal flotation devices, personal watercraft safety and the problems with drinking and boating. In cooperation with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service at the Prairie Wetland Learning Center, Officer Forsberg taught a session on

boating safety in conjunction with the classes held there. He also taught boating and boating safety at the State Community and Technical College's Outdoor Recreation Program in Fergus Falls.



Sergeant
Timothy McGuire
Ulster County
Sheriff's Office
New York

The relentless efforts of Sergeant Timothy McGuire with the Ulster County Sheriff's Office have contributed significantly to New York's overall boating safety on the waters in and around Ulster County and, in particular, the Hudson River.

Under the direction of Sheriff J. Richard Bockelman, Sgt. McGuire has overseen the direction of the county's marine law enforcement unit, as well as taking an active hand in patrolling. The Navigation Unit of the Sheriff's Office patrols 55 miles of the Hudson River from Catskill South to Newburgh. Members are kept busy with transient and recreational boating traffic borne by the numerous marinas located along the river, plus that from the two major navigable tributaries, the Rondout and the Esopus.

Sgt. McGuire was a key contributor in making Ulster County an active participant in the Hudson River Marine Task Force. The Sheriff's Navigation Unit shares with other navigation units its mission to enhance police and emergency response services to the public on the Hudson River Estuary through improved communication, coordination, training, planning, deployment and resource utilization for the long-term protection of natural and human resources.

Sgt. McGuire has fully embraced the concept of combining a strong enforcement presence with a rigorous effort to educate the boating public. Since 1999, Sgt. McGuire has taught nearly 300 boaters of all ages throughout Ulster County. In addition to formal education, Sgt. McGuire has participated in numerous local boat shows and county fairs, striving to get the boating safety message to the public.

Besides teaching boating safety to the public, Sgt. McGuire has devoted a significant amount of time to helping train his fellow marine law enforcement officers. In 2000, he began assisting State Parks as an instructor in their Basic Marine Law Enforcement

Program, Marine Patrol Vessel Operator Course, and the Impaired Boater Recognition Program. He has also volunteered to instruct in special in-service training programs for agencies along the Hudson River.

Sgt. McGuire recognizes the importance of preventing accidents and saving lives and he is truly dedicated to preventing the loss of lives with diligent enforcement and a determined education effort. His inspired leadership and unwavering devotion have contributed immensely to the safe boating cause in New York.

PHOTO
UNAVAILABLE

District Game
Warden
Brent Schwan
Game and Fish
Department
North Dakota

A 12-year veteran of the North Dakota Game and Fish Department, District Game Warden Brent Schwan of Watford City provides excellence in the enforcement of boating safety laws in the state. Officer Schwan is responsible for boat safety enforcement activities on more than 130 miles of Lake Sakakawea, one of the largest reservoirs on the Missouri River, as well as numerous smaller lakes in his district. Officer Schwan especially excels in the apprehension of boaters operating under the influence of alcohol (BUI). Besides making numerous arrests each year, he also assists other officers, especially younger, less experienced officers, in making BUI arrests, enforcing other boating laws and investigating boating crashes. Officer Schwan annually volunteers to assist with boat safety enforcement duties outside of his district.

Officer Schwan always works to assist the N.D. Game and Fish Department in reaching its mission of providing safe boating recreation. He carries his boat safety duties off the water and into his local community. Every year he instructs boat safety classes for the kids of his community helping to ensure a safer boating public for future generations. He also serves on the local dive team and has been instrumental in executing numerous rescues throughout his tenure.

Overall, Officer Schwan is an outstanding asset to the states boat safety enforcement efforts. His devotion to the job and work in detecting and removing impaired operators from the water has certainly made the lakes in North Dakota a safer place to recreate.



**Watercraft Officer Specialist
Cathleen Janosko**
Department of
Natural Resources
Ohio

Watercraft Officer Specialist Cathleen Janosko is a 21-year veteran with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Watercraft. A 1982 graduate of Kent State University, Janosko then joined ODNR as a state park ranger and became a state watercraft officer in 1986. She has become a top-notch law enforcement officer.

While on patrol, Officer Janosko fairly and uniformly enforces Ohio boating laws. She is also a thorough and skilled investigator. Watercraft investigators have praised her reports for their completeness and accuracy.

Officer Janosko strives to provide outstanding customer service to the boaters of Ohio and does whatever it takes to get the job done. She is quick to answer the phone or assist walk-in customers when office personnel are busy. She also performs complete and accurate hull identification number inspections. Officer Janosko quickly adjusts her schedule to meet the needs of the boaters.

Officer Janosko was chosen to be a Field Training Officer because of her experience, knowledge of boating laws and Division operations, and her ability to be a role model for new officers. She works with the other officers to coordinate the office schedule to ensure all educational programs, meetings, and law enforcement commitments are completed.

An outstanding communicator, Officer Janosko teaches boating safety topics to audiences of all ages. She annually coordinates and teaches canoeing and sailing classes to Girl Scouts and state college students. In addition, she coordinates teaching the Ohio Boater Education Course for adults and children. She is also excellent at coordinating water rescue training for professional agencies.

Officer Janosko did an outstanding job while her supervisor was on an extended leave of absence. She came in during a difficult and unplanned situation. During the flooding in Belmont County, she immediately made the necessary notification calls and mobilized the Cambridge staff to the scene. She conducted on-water rescues and evacuations, which undoubtedly saved lives. She not only successfully completed dangerous on the water operations but also helped coordinate the flood response by additional watercraft officers. She also handled the day-to-day operations of the office.



**Waterways Conservation Officer
Matthew Visosky**
Fish & Boat Commission
Pennsylvania

Matthew Visosky began his career with the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission as a Deputy Waterways Conservation Officer in 1999. He became a full-time Waterways Conservation Officer in 2001.

Assigned to Delaware County outside Philadelphia, WCO Visosky is heavily involved in boating activities on the tidal Delaware River. He has demonstrated a commitment to protecting the safety of boaters on the Delaware River and advancing of boating safety through his efforts on patrol, in the classroom, and in the development of incentive programs for his district.

WCO Visosky actively patrols the Delaware River during the boating season and remains vigilant for operators impaired by alcohol. During 2005, he handled multiple boating under the influence cases and assisted with others while logging 280 hours of boat patrol. He also issued in excess of 100 citations in his assigned district. He conducted four boat accident investigations and investigated more than 10 pollution incidents.

To educate boaters, particularly children, WCO Visosky organized a boating safety campaign. He recruited community support to develop and produce T-shirts to distribute to the public. The "They Float, We Don't" T-shirts were given to children spotted wearing a proper personal flotation device while boating. More than 800 T-shirts were produced and distributed by conservation officers in the Philadelphia metropolitan area. In addition, WCO Visosky enlisted the assistance of local media, businesses, and a marina to display boating safety messages during Safe Boating Week.



**Environmental Police Officer
Jennifer Connors**
Department of Environmental Management
Rhode Island

Environmental Police Officer Jennifer Connors began as a field officer for the Department of Environmental Management in the mid 1990s and quickly distinguished herself in the boating law enforcement area. After undertaking several initiatives in the area of

boating outreach, she was assigned to headquarters as a court officer. This provided more opportunities to work in outreach and education. Officer Connors initiated and operated a poster contest for grade school children, which promoted the wearing of life jackets. This contest had an excellent participation rate and was well received, getting the boating safety message across. Officer Connors also worked diligently during the agency's efforts to pass legislation to phase in mandatory boating education.

Officer Connors frequently goes into schools and gives presentations on boating safety and coordinates the agency's appearances at various boating and sportsmen's shows. She has also worked many evenings proctoring challenge exams which the Department of Environmental Management offers to qualify boaters for an education certificate.

Not content to stay on the administrative side, during the 2004 boating season, Officer Connors participated in a very delicate search and rescue. The rescue involved pulling two children into a patrol boat as another officer negotiated breaking waves to nose the patrol boat up to a rock several hundred yards offshore. It took several attempts to rescue the children who had become stranded in an attempt to explore the rock. If Officer Connor had not rescued the children, they would have been swept away with the rising tide.



**Conservation Officer
Shon Eide**
Department of Game,
Fish and Parks
South Dakota

Conservation Officer Shon Eide has been employed with the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks for four years. One of Officer Eide's primary duties is enforcement of the state's watercraft laws and promotion of boating safety. Officer Eide has patrol responsibility for several lakes in his district. All of these lakes are highly used by anglers and recreational boaters.

From early spring through the fall months each year, Officer Eide spends many hours on the water conducting vessel safety checks and enforcing watercraft and boating under the influence laws. In 2005, Officer Eide made nearly 500 boating safety contacts and issued 30 citations and written warnings for boating law violations. In addition, Officer Eide attended NASBLA's Level 1 Accident Investigation Course

and has used that knowledge to investigate a number of watercraft accidents. Officer Eide is also a field training officer and passes his skills and knowledge on to new officers.

Officer Eide has established an excellent working relationship with the lake associations in his district. Officer Eide regularly attends their meetings and provides the members with valuable boating safety information. He also spends time educating association members on personal watercraft laws since they generate a high number of complaints. Officer Eide has also worked with lake association members to establish no-wake zones on areas susceptible to shoreline erosion. His professional work in this area is a model partnership of government and private citizens working together.



**Auxiliary Trooper
Robert L. Pregent Sr.
State Police
Vermont**

Auxiliary Trooper Robert L. Pregent Sr. has been with the Vermont State Police since July 1999. He remains dedicated to the mission of boating safety. In 2005, he expanded his commitment by volunteering to become a boating safety instructor as well as stepping up his patrol activities.

Auxiliary Pregent, because of departmental

vacancies, coordinated patrol schedules for two other barracks areas as well as his own and provided patrol coverage in the entire southeast corner of the state. He also conducted double the number of boating safety inspections of any other auxiliary trooper during the 2005 season.

In addition to these activities," commented Lt. Dan Begiebing, Vermont's boating law administrator, "Auxiliary Pregent is always a fine example of an officer, representing us well in uniform and with his public speaking activities and his participation in safety programs."



**Conservation Warden
Russell Fell
Department of Natural
Resources
Wisconsin**

Since Conservation Warden Russ Fell transferred to the Rice Lake station in Barron County, he has put a strong emphasis on boating enforcement on his local waters. Warden Fell's administrative area encompasses the eastern half of Barron County. This portion of the county also contains the largest amount of water and population.

Due to the large population base in Rice Lake and the surrounding cities, Warden Fell receives numerous requests to provide boating safety courses. He typically teaches two to three boating safety classes each year. He not only conducts the

classroom portion of the program but also organizes a hands-on boating practical on local waters, providing valuable experience to area youth.

Warden Fell has worked very hard to build a strong relationship with the Resort Owners Association and Chamber of Commerce members. Each year he speaks to them about boating regulations so they can educate their patrons about the importance of safe, ethical and responsible boating. This effort has reduced boating complaints in his area as the users are more educated thus safer and more responsible. Warden Fell also maintains this positive working relationship with local municipalities. He assists them with adopting and writing local boating ordinances to protect other boaters and sensitive environmental areas.

Warden Fell has built a strong relationship with Barron County Recreational Officer Dave Moin. Working together, the two ensure that area officers are kept up to date on local boating laws. They also coordinate to provide adequate boating enforcement coverage on the area waters.

Warden Fell also provides excellent boating law enforcement to his constituents. He understands the intent of the boating regulations and applies them consistently throughout his enforcement program. Warden Fell is very responsive to complainants conducting thorough investigations then advising them of the outcome of the complaint. He has a well-rounded enforcement program, issuing citations in numerous categories including safety, registration, moving violations and operating under the influence offenses.

How to Nominate a Boating Officer

The National Association of State Boating Law Administrators' Butch Potts Memorial Award, known more commonly as the Boating Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award, is presented annually to the boating law enforcement officer who has made outstanding contributions to the field of boating law enforcement.

To be considered for this recognition, a nominee must be a commissioned, certified or sworn peace officer authorized by his or her respective state to enforce the recreational boating safety laws of that state. Posthumous nominations are not eligible. In addition, a nominee should have performed an outstanding service to the agency or state in any facet of recreational boating safety including but not limited to enforcement, education, search and rescue, outreach, innovation, partnership, BUI enforcement, accident investigation, community service, and heroic action.

The award program consists of three levels: state, regional and national. State nominees are selected by the state boating law administrator. State nominees continue to regional competition where they are reviewed and one winner per region is selected by the three regional awards committees. Regional award winners are submitted to NASBLA's Awards Committee for review and selection of the recipient of the national Butch Potts Memorial Award.

Nomination forms are sent electronically to each state boating law administrator in January of each year. Additional information on the program is available online at www.nasbla.org.

SOUTHERN region



Corporal
Russell Carmack
Game & Fish
Commission
Arkansas

For 15 years Corporal Russell Carmack has been dedicated to boating enforcement both in his district and the state of Arkansas. In addition to his other wildlife officer duties, Corporal Carmack worked a total of 479 hours of boating and water safety related activities in 2005. He made 2,359 public contacts, investigated six boating accidents, assisted with one drowning accident and conducted one marine theft investigation.

Corporal Carmack has effectively and efficiently enforced the state and federal boating laws on Lake Ouachita (a 44,000-acre impoundment), Lake Catherine (a 2,264-acre impoundment), Blue Mountain Lake, Lake Dardanelle, Lake Nimrod and Lake Wilhelmina, as well as U.S. Forest Service lakes. In addition, Corporal Carmack also enforces the boating laws on a 67-mile stretch of the Ouachita River, 24 miles of the South Fork River, 28 miles of the Caddo River and 10 miles of the Little Missouri River.

Corporal Carmack is a strong advocate of boating safety and education. He taught seven boating education courses and conducted four boating safety programs in his local schools in 2005. Corporal Carmack is very active in his local Woods and Water Club for children. During the summer of 2005, he helped the children decorate his patrol boat and allowed them to ride in it during the annual county fair parade. They won first place for best “float” in the parade. He also set up a boating and water safety booth during the county fair. Corporal Carmack assisted his agency’s Boating Education division with a boating and water safety video, which was filmed for a “hands-on” virtual boating exhibit housed at the Little Rock headquarters office. He conducted a Ride-A-Long program with the local newspaper and took a journalist on a “Day in the Life of a Wildlife Officer on the Water” adventure.



Officer
Rick Francis
Fish and Wildlife
Conservation
Commission
Florida

Although he’s been with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) for only three years, Officer Rick Francis has already developed a stellar reputation and work ethic. He works in the agency’s Northeast Region, primarily Volusia County.

In 2005, Francis wrote 241 citations, including two for boating under the influence, and 1,151 warnings. His cases also included freshwater and saltwater fisheries violations, illegal alligator hunting, driving under the influence, boating accidents, sex crimes and suicide. This ratio of citations to warnings illustrates the value Officer Francis puts on educating the public on the many laws, rules and regulations that the FWC upholds, as well as proper use of officer discretion.

Like all law enforcement officers, even when off-duty, Officer Francis is on the alert for lawbreakers. In April 2005, while visiting a fellow FWC officer in the upper Keys, he was instrumental in recovering a stolen \$200,000 Hatteras yacht and the arrests of two subjects who had false paperwork for the vessel – within hours of it being reported stolen.

Because of his exemplary leadership skills and abilities, Officer Francis has been requested to work special details such as hurricanes Ivan, Katrina and Wilma, the Summit of Americas, the Columbus Day Regatta, and Dade County mini-lobster season.

Francis earned a bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice from Columbia University and is currently working on a master’s degree. In addition, he has completed radar school, line supervision, field training officer, fish identification, Intoxillizer 8000 and BUI inspector courses.

Officer Francis has demonstrated a selfless devotion to duty and takes great pride in serving others. In the short time he’s been with the FWC, he has earned recognition as a leader with a positive attitude. He is well respected not only by his peers and supervisors but by leaders from other agencies.



Ranger First Class
Randy Aspinwall
Department of Natural
Resources
Georgia

Ranger First Class Randy Aspinwall has been with the Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Section since 2001. He is responsible for patrolling 65 miles of the Altamaha River, 20 miles of the Satilla River, and a 300-acre impoundment known as Lake Grace.

RFC Aspinwall has an outstanding record in boating safety enforcement. In 2005, he made 60 boating safety contacts, one BUI arrest, one assisted BUI arrest, and checked 405 vessels. He also responded to seven stranded boater incidents and saved numerous lives.

A dedicated officer, RFC Aspinwall often volunteers to help. He is committed to serving the public, even in the worst of conditions. In 2005 he volunteered to be one of the 42 rangers Georgia sent to assist in the devastated region following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Assigned to the New Orleans and Sldell areas, he assisted with security patrols in the affected areas as well as body recovery efforts. He was enthusiastic about going to help and very dedicated to the mission.

RFC Aspinwall is dedicated to educating boaters. He keeps a supply of boating safety materials on hand to distribute to the public while on patrol. He also takes time to explain violations to boaters, rather than simply writing a citation. His goal is to gain voluntary compliance with the boating public so they can enjoy their boating experience.

In 2005 he assisted with two kids fishing events, taking time to talk to the kids about the importance of wearing a life jacket when on the water. Through these events he contacted over 300 kids. He also taught six boating safety programs at local churches and schools. This effort contacted over 150 kids with the water and boating safety theme. At these education programs RFC Aspinwall towed a boat to the class to let students have a hands-on experience with a boat.

RFC Aspinwall’s professionalism has positively affected many recreational boaters as well as his fellow officers. He is active in boating safety education in his community. His dedication to the enforcement of this state’s boating laws inspires other officers to follow suit. RFC Aspinwall is an asset to his agency, the people in his work area and the state of Georgia.



Officer Rick Mehlbauer
Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources
Kentucky

Officer Rick Mehlbauer is an exemplary officer who is dedicated to protecting Kentucky's hunting, fishing and boating resources as well as the people of the commonwealth. He is active in his community and respected as a law enforcement officer in his area.

Officer Mehlbauer is assigned to work Breckinridge County, Rough River Lake and the Ohio River. Each of these areas has an abundance of fishing, hunting and boating activities. In 2005 he checked 1,950 licenses, performed 878 boat inspections, and issued 86 boating-related charges. Officer Mehlbauer received convictions on all of the boating under the influence charges and alcohol intoxication charges he made. Officer Mehlbauer also assisted in recovering two stolen personal watercraft and assisted in making an arrest in this case.

Officer Mehlbauer is very active in his community. In 2005 he also assisted with two kids' fishing derbies, assisted in water safety programs at local schools, and assisted with Hunter Education Classes.

Officer Mehlbauer has completed both the comprehensive and advanced NASBLA Boat Accident Investigation courses, the NASBLA BUI Detection course, 24 hours of training to be a Smith and Wesson Armor, the Water Survival Class, and the Boat Operations Class. All of this training has made him an excellent officer.

Officer Mehlbauer saved many lives during the summer of 2005 by arresting boat operators and passengers who were intoxicated. Through education and enforcement Officer Mehlbauer has made an enormous impact on the lives and the safety of the people of the commonwealth of Kentucky.



Senior Agent Will Roberts
Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
Louisiana

Senior Agent Will Roberts has worked for the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries for only five years, but he's quickly become an outstanding boating officer who's gained the respect of fellow officers, court systems, boating safety groups and boat operators throughout his

patrol area. He has also made a name for himself throughout the state for his tenacious efforts in removing impaired boat operators from the waters.

Working in the metropolitan Baton Rouge region, where a large number of boaters utilize many narrow and dangerous rivers, canals and bayous, Agent Roberts and his team work in highly congested areas. To the credit of Agent Roberts and his teammates, the area's fatality rate has dropped significantly over the last couple of years. This officer's leadership in organizing a team concept approach to boating safety patrols has helped his patrol area evolve from one of the most dangerous to one of the safest in the state.

Agent Roberts' steadfast enforcement efforts are often overshadowed by his unique ability to connect with young boaters during boating compliance checks. He always takes time out to greet everyone on board and explain the requirements of boating laws and how following safe boating practices can, and does, save lives.

Agent Roberts' numbers speak for themselves. In 2005, he worked more than 700 boating safety hours, conducted 912 boardings, issued 132 boating citations, and personally charged 16 operators with boating under the influence. He assisted his fellow officers in many more arrests.

Agent Robert continues to function as an ambassador between the agency and boaters. He is very involved in boating safety education and frequently visits local schools to spread safe boating messages to young boaters and would-be boaters. He is highly respected in the court systems and maintains a conviction rate of over 90 percent in BUI cases.



Corporal Leonard V. Sciukas
Department of Natural Resources
Maryland

A 30-year veteran of the Maryland Natural Resources Police Force, Corporal Leonard Sciukas continues to exceed in all aspects of his job and sets a high standard for all other officers to emulate. He routinely sets his schedule to reflect the activity in his patrol area and is always willing to assist other officers.

Corporal Sciukas' professionalism is unmatched and his service to the citizens of Maryland reflects his pride in the job. He understands the importance of boating safety and remains vigilant in search of irresponsible actions that may threaten life or property. He is quick to correct these actions and take enforcement action when necessary.

Corporal Sciukas continues to make quality cases while enforcing the boating and conservation

laws of the state. His patrol area consists of the waters of Charles County and the adjacent Potomac River. In 2005 Corporal Sciukas aggressively patrolled his assigned post and led the district in the number of patrol hours. He made nearly 1,900 public contacts and educated the public on safe boating practices.

Among his many accomplishments, one incident sums up Corporal Sciukas's dedication and concern for the citizens of Maryland. On May 10, 2005 at 12:20 a.m., Corporal Sciukas received a call about a boating accident in the Potomac River. He responded and assisted several allied agencies with the search for two persons. At 3:00 a.m., he was advised that allied agencies were suspending the search and returning to port. Corporal Sciukas remained on scene and continued the search despite the cold weather and darkness. About half an hour later, he located the two boaters clinging to the hull of their capsized boat. They had had been in the water for nearly four hours and suffered from hypothermia. This incident exemplifies his dedication as a boating officer.



Sergeant Mark Dutton
Wildlife Resources Commission
North Carolina

Sergeant Mark Dutton with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission was selected as the state's top boating law enforcement officer for 2005. His cooperation with other law enforcement, search and rescue agencies and fire departments was summarized as "exceptional."

Sergeant Dutton was cited for his outstanding service on the Roanoke River and Lake Gaston. In addition to enforcing the state's boating, fishing and hunting laws, this officer endeavored to reduce alcohol related boating accidents on the popular waterways. Sergeant Dutton was also diligent in talking to the public about boating safety and worked with local media to promote boating safety.

Sergeant Dutton made several rescues during the year. In one incident, he rescued two people who had swamped their canoe in rising waters. Another time he located a stranded duck hunter who was becoming hypothermic and got him to safety.

Since being named North Carolina's top boating law enforcement officer, Dutton was promoted from a master officer based in Rocky Mount to sergeant. He is now stationed in the Ellerbee area.

SOUTHERN region



**Wildlife Officer
Matt Majors**
Wildlife Resources
Agency
Tennessee

Employed by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA), Officer Matt Majors works in Hamilton County, Tenn., which is home to Chattanooga, one of the state's top metropolitan areas. The county is bisected by the Tennessee River. These two factors make this a popular area for recreational boating.

Officer Majors' law enforcement work indicates his superior dedication to enforcing boating safety laws, rules and regulations. In 2005, he checked 819 boats and issued 114 citations for boating violations and 143 warnings. He also conducted 22 vessel safety checks in coordination with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. He performed eight field sobriety tasks on Tennessee boaters which led to five boating under the influence arrests. Officer Majors coordinated efforts with other area officers and conducted four "Marina Walks" to issue warnings for registration violations. He also assisted 41 boaters by providing fuel and towing services.

Officer Majors was the lead investigator on one fatal accident, five personal injury accidents and nine property damage accidents, and he assisted on one injury accident and one property damage accident. He spent 112 hours on extended investigations, which produced 12 criminal charges: simple possession of drugs, BUI with accident involved, three registration violations, two fire extinguisher violations, contributing to the delinquency of a minor, violation of boater education requirement with accident involved, no wake violation, failure to report an accident and a personal flotation device violation. To assist with TWRA's new officer training program, Officer Majors developed and produced DVDs focusing on the use of video cameras on boats.

Officer Majors does a fantastic job in education and outreach. He monitored six exams in which 86 students were certified to meet the state's new mandatory boater education requirements. He also taught two boating safety courses and worked two boat shows. Officer Majors has developed partnerships with several local agencies and worked with them on projects to improve boating safety.



**Game Warden
Ron VanderRoest**
Parks & Wildlife
Department
Texas

Game Warden Ron VanderRoest personifies what a state peace officer should be. Responsible for patrolling more than 60,000 acres of public waters to which nearly 5.5 million people have access, he has one of the heaviest water safety case loads in the region. During peak season, Warden VanderRoest handles more than 30 cases per month. On average, he has filed more than 200 water safety related cases each year.

Stationed in Denton County, Warden VanderRoest has built a working relationship with other local agencies responsible for assisting with water safety enforcement. In addition to a high case load, Warden VanderRoest has focused his efforts on narcotics enforcement on public waters. He leads in narcotics arrests on Lake Lewisville.

Because of Warden VanderRoest's diligence and hard work, there has been a major reduction in water-related fatalities on Lake Lewisville. In 2005, there were no boating accident fatalities and one drowning. This can be attributed in part to Warden VanderRoest's commitment to water safety.

Warden VanderRoest is very active in his community. He is instrumental in informing the public about boating regulation changes. He has presented over 50 educational programs to area schools, 4-H groups, scout groups and adult groups.

Warden VanderRoest is a leader in boating while intoxicated (BWI) arrests and convictions. He has filed 31 BWI cases, six of which he filed during the 2005 boating season. Working closely with area prosecutors, Warden VanderRoest has streamlined the methods for filing boating while intoxicated case reports and prosecution of cases. He has outlined the paperwork and evidence that is required to strengthen cases filed in local courts. Due to his efforts, all BWI cases have resulted in plea bargains before trial or guilty convictions at trial.



**Officer
Frank H. Neighbors**
Department of Game
and Inland Fisheries
Virginia

Officer Frank H. Neighbors is an 18-year veteran of the Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries (VDGIF). Hired in 1988, he was initially assigned to Prince William County in Northern Virginia. For 13 years he patrolled the congested tidal waters of the Potomac River, along with several other waterways.

In 2001, Officer Neighbors voluntarily transferred to Bedford County. This relocation put him in the "hot spot" of boating enforcement demands in the state. He his new area of responsibility included the heavily used Smith Mountain Lake, along with Leesville Lake, Roanoke River and James River.

Over the past five years, Officer Neighbors has logged over 2,400 hours enforcing boating-related laws and regulations. In addition to enforcing state boating laws, Officer Neighbors continues reaching boaters through boating safety talks, approved courses, talks at local marinas and to marina clients, and by providing local fishing clinics for youth. Through his efforts, he has made Virginia's waters safer.

During the 2005 boating season, Officer Neighbors volunteered to work overtime on a special Selective Enforcement grant. He alone voluntarily worked nearly 300 hours of overtime patrolling Smith Mountain Lake. This grant funding was earmarked toward enforcement of boating under the influence and reckless operation violations. His efforts helped enhance boating safety on the waterways.

Also in 2005, the VDGIF launched a new initiative called Lake Watch. Officer Neighbors played a huge role in the success of the water and boating safety program. Lake Watch is a community-based program promoting boating safety by all users of inland lakes and rivers.

The citizens of Virginia have benefited greatly from the efforts of this conscientious officer. Officer Neighbors' dedication and accomplishments over the years have not gone unnoticed. For example, in 1991 he was named the Virginia Game Warden of the Year. In 2003 and 2004, he received the Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) Award, applauding his efforts in boating enforcement excellence.

WESTERN region



**Sergeant
Matt Dobson**
Department of
Public Safety
Alaska

Sergeant Matt Dobson has been instrumental in boating safety for the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim region, a region whose waterways are the primary means of transportation. During the summer months travel is conducted by boat both for the subsistence lifestyles and recreation. The majority of residents in this region rely on boating.

Statistics indicate that the region Sgt. Dobson supervises spent close to 200 hours on boating safety, made 1,008 contacts, gave 56 warnings and issued 47 citations. This reflects 10 percent of the overall time spent on boating safety by the Alaska Bureau of Wildlife Enforcement (ABWE). It also accounts for one-fifth of the agency's contacts and citations and 13 percent of ABWE's warnings.

2005 marked the second consecutive year in which Sergeant Dobson undertook boating safety as a priority. Each spring, Sergeant Dobson utilized the local news media to promote the importance of boating safety and to remind boaters about various requirements. This media attention has helped bring to the forefront an important core of ABWE's mission – boating safety – and the agency's efforts to reduce boating-related deaths and injuries.

In conclusion, while Alaska's boating safety record is among the worst in the nation, Sergeant Dobson has proven himself above the norm in working to improve boating safety in one of the most remote regions of the country.



**Deputy
Jared Kyer**
Mohave County
Sheriff's Office
Arizona

Deputy Jared Kyer is a full-time boating officer with the Mohave County Sheriff's Office. He is assigned patrol duties in the Lake Havasu and Colorado River area between Lake Havasu and Golden Shores, Ariz. Lake Havasu is considered the busiest waterway in the state of Arizona. Hundreds of thousands of visitors flock to the area during summer. As a result, congested waterways filled with many inexperienced, and sometimes impaired, operators contribute all the ingredients for tragedy.

Deputy Kyer is a two-year veteran. Early on, he recognized the significant problems facing law enforcement in the boating arena of Lake Havasu. Looking to make a difference in boating safety, he asked to be assigned to educational programs to increase his skills through advanced education. He attended a boat accident investigation course, as well as the state's boating officer course. Deputy Kyer single-handedly investigated more than 12 accidents in 2005 and effected 48 arrests for operating under the influence.

During the 2005 boating season, Deputy Kyer recorded 31 law enforcement assists, over 100 safety inspections, and greatly supported the maintenance of a rather large fleet of patrol boats. He was also called out from his home on several occasions for nighttime search-and-rescue missions. One mission in particular involved a hit-and-run accident in which two subjects were forced into the water as their boat sank. After searching for nearly two hours, Deputy Kyer located the subjects floating in the water. The two individuals were unharmed and thankful that the deputy went the extra mile to locate them. This heroic act performed by Deputy Kyer quite possibly saved the lives of these two individuals. His dedication and perseverance personify the officer that he is.

Deputy Kyer also was involved in educating the young people of Lake Havasu City. He has a way of captivating young people and getting the message to stick. Deputy Kyer has been assigned to the training staff of the boating safety volunteer program, and over 70 local citizens have received the same captivating and professional instruction from him.



**Sergeant
Jim Lambert**
Alameda County
Sheriff's Office
California

Sergeant Jim Lambert has nearly 30 years of law enforcement experience. He served the city of Hayward for more than 27 years and retired at the rank of lieutenant. He then joined the Alameda County Sheriff's Office and was assigned to the Marine Patrol Unit. He has been a member of this newly created unit since its inception in January 2004. In May 2005, Deputy Lambert was promoted to the rank of sergeant and placed in charge of the Sheriff's Office Marine Patrol Unit.

Sergeant Lambert has done an outstanding job of coordinating and managing this unit. He has guided it into a credible and efficient unit in a relatively short time. He has been a Coast Guard-licensed U.S. Merchant Marine Officer for 33 years. He has trained all the current members of the Marine Patrol Unit in basic boat handling and radar operation. He has also instructed Alameda County Fire Department members in handling their boats with radar and the Global Positioning System.

The Marine Patrol Unit was recently awarded a \$35,000 grant from the California Department of Boating and Waterways. The grant was written by Sergeant Lambert and will help replace the motors on the unit's 31-foot SAFE Boat. Sergeant Lambert was also a driving force behind the Marine Patrol Unit receiving a \$4.5 million, 85-foot patrol boat.

As a direct result of Sergeant Lambert's leadership and experience, the Marine Patrol Unit has been involved in joint training with the U.S. Navy, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Customs, Navy Seals and many other law enforcement agencies that involved marine assets.

He has won the respect of the Coast Guard, local law enforcement marine units and the various stakeholders who use the waterways in the San Francisco Bay. Under the leadership and direction of Sergeant Lambert, the Marine Patrol Unit has been diligent with ensuring the safety and security of the waterways located throughout Alameda County.

WESTERN region



Lieutenant
Ben Keyes
Canyon County Parks
Recreation &
Waterways
Canyon County
Sheriff's Department
Idaho

Lieutenant Ben Keyes has served as supervisor of the Marine Patrol Program of the Canyon County Sheriff's Department since 1981. He supervises eight marine deputies. The department's patrol area includes 52 miles of Snake River, 26 miles of Boise River and all of Lake Lowell.

Lieutenant Keyes was instrumental in the development and implementation of "Boat Idaho," a NASBLA-approved safe boating course available to the public. He has personally trained over 1,000 students over the course of his career. He has also devoted thousands of hours to promoting safe boating and water safety to youth in the school systems in and around Caldwell, Idaho.

In addition, Lieutenant Keyes was instrumental in the development and implementation of the Whitewater Personal Watercraft/Search and Rescue skills-based course. This course is still taught in Idaho. Over 200 marine law enforcement rescue dive personnel have successfully completed this course since its inception. Lieutenant Keys maintains a 100 percent safety record for students.

Lieutenant Keyes has participated as an instructor for classroom and practical portions of the Idaho marine law enforcement academy. He has assisted the boating program certify an average of 30 marine deputies annually since 1982.

Exemplifying what all marine patrol officers should strive to achieve, Lieutenant Keyes' attention to detail, broad knowledge base, excellent communication skills, and strong ethical and moral commitment to law enforcement are second to none.



Game Warden
Jason Sexton
Department of
Wildlife
Nevada

Working for the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW), Game Warden Jason Sexton is a dedicated officer who has worked his entire career in boating safety on Lake Mead. He is a highly motivated self-starter, who maximizes his patrol effectiveness with little or no supervision. Warden Sexton seeks out the high-use areas and times and puts himself in the middle of the action. No one has to tell this officer how to maximize his boating safety time; he does it as a personal commitment to his job.

Supervisors can rarely catch up to Warden Sexton because he spends so much time alone in a patrol boat checking a staggering number of boats – 1,443 contacts in 2005 alone. He is a leader in enforcement actions, issuing more than 200 citations and leads the team of Lake Mead officers with eight operating under the influence arrests. He is also a stellar boating accident and wildlife crimes investigator.

Warden Sexton works in extremely challenging boating conditions, primarily in the Boulder Basin area of Lake Mead. High use, extreme heat and a wide variety of boating safety and legal violations make Lake Mead a tough spot to patrol on a daily basis. The lake is the largest artificial lake in the United States with challenges few people – other than the officers who patrol it – can fully appreciate.

Aside from patrol, Warden Sexton takes on numerous secondary assignments, including instructing regional defensive tactics and intermediate weapons. He has recently added a new job as a field-training officer for NDOW. With a small agency like Nevada's, every side job becomes a full-time job, and Warden Sexton is always willing to take on these time-consuming and thankless assignments.

Warden Sexton's professional attitude and demeanor win him the respect of his peers. He has extended his circle of friends and peers to other agencies in his district, working closely with the National Park Service and others.

More than anything, Warden Sexton is always willing to help, and his common courtesy and teamwork are contagious, making his attitudes and efforts all that more impressive.



Deputy
Dave Peabody
Columbia County
Sheriff's Office
Oregon

Deputy Dave Peabody with the Columbia County Sheriff's Office works in a county bordering more than 50 miles of the Columbia River. This part of the state is unique as it is a delta-like area consisting of islands, channels, rivers and lakes. This poses frequent problems for boaters who are unfamiliar with navigational complexities of the area and compounds the boater-assist workload.

Although Columbia County only has about four percent of Oregon's three million boat-use days, boaters from Washington greatly increase local activity. Significant commercial traffic transiting the Columbia River contributes to conflicts in waterway use. Because the Columbia County stretch of the Columbia River is a very popular fishing destination for sturgeon and salmon, conflicts between commercial and recreational vessels require constant vigilance of marine patrol personnel. "Operation Make Way" efforts involving federal and state agencies via education and enforcement efforts are heralded a big success, largely due to the diligence and dedication of Deputy Peabody.

Deputy Peabody regularly exceeds the specified amount of contracted patrol hours and meets or exceeds all other areas of performance including, public contacts, boat examinations, arrests for boating under the influence of intoxicants and other violations, public education efforts and more. He has a nearly perfect conviction rate. This is due largely to his interactions with local courts to help judges understand issues on the water and decisions marine deputies make in deciding enforcement action.

WESTERN region



Assistant Park Ranger
Jon Wikan
Division of Parks &
Recreation
Utah

Jon Wikan began his boating career with Utah State Parks as a seasonal boating ranger at Lake Powell. He was hired full-time at Quail Creek State Park in November 1995.

Ranger Wikan is one of the most highly trained boating officers in the Utah State Parks system. He has successfully completed basic and advanced courses within the Division of Parks & Recreation and periodically repeats these to stay fresh and sharp on his skills. He has completed specialized boating training in finding, identifying and tracking stolen watercraft. He has also completed NASBLA's Boating Accident Investigation training (Levels One and Two).

In early 2005 the St. George Area was impacted by flood waters from both the Santa Clara and Virgin rivers. A campground host was swept away by the current and carried downstream to Quail Creek Reservoir. A search was initiated with agency response from several agencies. The available resources needed to be blended across agencies with a distinct matching of various types of surface vessels. Ranger Wikan volunteered to operate the assortment of vessels and helped procure a large platform boat to house the remote searching equipment. No one from the other agencies had Wikan's cross-training or experience in vessel operations. The debris on the lake's surface clogged boat cooling systems frequently. In addition to piloting a vessel, Ranger Wikan helped others keep their search vessels operational. He became everyone's go-to-guy when it came to vessel procurement, operation and maintenance. Ranger Wikan assisted on this operation for over a week straight with many days running 15 to 17 hours long until the victim's body was found.

Through his willingness, persistence and training, Ranger Wikan remains a significant asset not only to his park but to his community and agency partners.



Deputy
Gregory McKinney
King County Sheriff's
Office
Washington

Deputy Gregory McKinney has been in law enforcement for 14 years, starting with the Honolulu Police Department. For the past four years he has worked for King County Sheriff's Office in the Special Operations Division as a marine patrol officer.

Lake Washington is a primary boating area for the over 63,000 registered boats in King County, which includes Seattle. Deputy McKinney had over 700 patrol hours in 2005 and led his marine unit with 2,337 boating contacts. Of those contacts, he issued over 300 warnings, completed 66 written state inspections and issued 136 citations, including 38 boating under the influence (BUI) arrests. Of the 103 boat assistance/search and rescue calls for the area, he was involved in 34 and completed nine accident investigation/reconstructions.

The King County Marine Unit has an active boating education program and Deputy McKinney had over 200 hours teaching classes. He also helped develop the educational program for using "Charlie the Sheriff Boat" at the Seattle Tacoma Boat shows, the state's two largest recreational boat shows.

On August 6, 2005, while on evening patrol on Lake Washington, Deputy McKinney and his partner responded to a call involving two males fighting on a boat nearby. While en route to the scene, the call was updated to two males in the water, and Deputy McKinney, a PADI dive master, put his wetsuit and life jacket in preparation for rescue or recovery. Just before arriving, an update was received that one male was missing and the other was on shore. McKinney was in the water immediately upon arrival.

With the assistance of another member of the marine unit, the victim was handed to the EMS personnel 28 minutes after the call was received. The victim was revived at the scene and taken to the hospital in critical condition. Deputy McKinney continued the accident investigation, conducting a BUI check.

Deputy McKinney has the direct responsibility to manage nine city contracts for marine enforcement and acts as the liaison for updating boating laws for contract cities, recommending new ordinances, and meeting with city prosecutors and city police chiefs. He serves as the primary contact for addressing the cities' contract problems and issues. He is also the lead for working with BUI cases handled by the U.S. Coast Guard.



Game Warden
Jim Seeman
Game and Fish
Department
Wyoming

Warden Jim Seeman provides and performs outstanding service to the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and to the state of Wyoming in the field of watercraft safety and enforcement. Jim Seeman is a 15-year veteran with the department. He started his career as a contract Reservoir Crew patrol officer in 1992 and then became a game warden trainee that fall. He has worked in the Casper, Sheridan and Cody regions as a game warden.

On Jan. 1, 2000, Warden Seeman transferred to the Glenrock Game Warden District, where he continues to serve today. Even though this district has no bodies of water where watercraft recreation occurs, Warden Seeman still works well over 175 hours doing watercraft enforcement during the summer, in addition to his other duties. He goes to other districts to work watercraft enforcement. Primarily he goes to the Douglas Warden District and the East Casper Warden District. The waters in these districts receive the highest watercraft use in the state.

Warden Seeman is a key component in the Casper Region's watercraft law enforcement effort. From April through August, he can be found patrolling Casper Region waters to ensure they remain safe and enjoyable. The hours Warden Seeman spends on the water is time well spent, as he is one of the region's top producers in documenting watercraft and fishing violations through citations and warnings.

Annually, he assists with watercraft and fishing task forces at Glendo Reservoir during the Memorial Day and July 4th holidays. During these holiday periods, 15,000-30,000 people occupy Glendo State Park. Glendo State Park and reservoir provide a great mixture of recreational boating, camping and fishing, which often leads to user conflicts. Warden Seeman efficiently and effectively manages these situations.

In addition to his patrol activities, Warden Seeman is actively involved in providing watercraft and water-related safety training to new and tenured department officers. Each year he provides on-the-water field training to new officers throughout the watercraft season. His field and classroom training is of the highest quality.

Each spring Warden Seeman works with the local Safe Kids organization to produce a watercraft safety program. The hands-on program shows kids the importance of wearing a proper life jacket and boat operation safety.

I'm a Safe Boater, Are YOU??

The National Safe Boating Council (NSBC) has launched its second Boating Safety Sidekicks contest. This year's competition is titled "I'm a Safe Boater, Are You?" Expanding on 2005's "Why I Wear My Life Jacket" contest, the NSBC has partnered with West Marine and Within Reach to expand the contest to include not only essays but posters or videos to tell others what kids do to be safe boaters. The hope is that by hearing these stories, their parents, brothers, sisters, families and friends will realize how important it is for children as well as adults to wear their life jackets and boat safely. Kids between the ages of 4 to 15 are eligible to enter. The deadline is January 1, 2007.

Stories should be 150-750 words in length and tell about a particular boating experience or safe boating habit in which the child wears his or her life jacket and follows other practices to be a safe boater. Posters should be 8-1/2"x11" or 8-1/2"x14" and contain a simple message to inspire others to boat safely. Computer-generated submissions must be as one jpg, tiff or eps file. Videos can range from 30 seconds to 2 minutes in length and must show life jacket wear. They can be submitted as mpeg files on CD or DVD. The title of all entries should be "I'm a Safe Boater, Are You?" and demonstrate what the entrant does to be safer on the water.

First, second and third place prizes will be awarded in each of the three age groups. First place awards will include a \$100 savings bond, a life jacket, one NSBC member donated prize, Sidekicks cap and DVD, and recognition on the Sidekicks website. For more information on the contest and how to enter, visit the Boating Safety Sidekicks website at www.boatingsidekicks.com.



Minnesota Hunters 'Quacking up' over Boating Safety Podcast

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has released the latest in their series of audio programs for outdoor sports enthusiasts with a boating safety message. Titled "Basic Duck Hunting Tips," the program features expert waterfowl hunter and advanced hunter education instructor, John Schroers.

"We were fortunate to have John on the show, said Steve Carroll, MN DNR information officer and host of the show. "Besides being an expert waterfowler and champion duck and goose caller, he has a real gift for teaching people about the sport." Schroer discusses basic waterfowling equipment, clothing, camouflage patterns, decoys, guns, ammunition and demonstrates several basic calls.

Also featured on the show is DNR's boating education coordinator, Tim Smalley. Smalley has hunted ducks ever since his father first took him hunting on Minnesota's Leech Lake when he was six years old. "This is an effective way to get

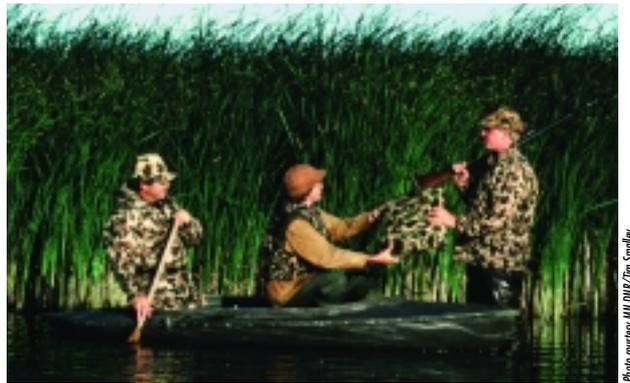


Photo courtesy MN DNR, Tim Smalley

sportsmen and women to listen to our boating safety message. We found many years ago that if we just talk about safety, we don't get the mass listenership of hunters or anglers that we do when the title and content has a heavy "how to shoot more ducks, or catch more fish" emphasis," Smalley said.

Minnesota's "Basic Duck Hunting Tips" program may be downloaded at www.dnr.state.mn.us. Scroll down and click on "DNR podcasts." While the program is described as a podcast, it can also be downloaded and listened to on nearly any computer connected to the Internet that can play audio files.



Summit to be Held in Texas

This year's annual International Boating and Water Safety Summit (IBWSS) is being held earlier than usual, meaning earlier deadlines for registering and for securing a hotel room. The 11th annual Summit is being held March 4-7, 2007, in San Antonio, Texas. This conference is the premier educational resource for boating and water safety professionals.

The exciting program includes general and breakout sessions on specific topics such as life jacket wear; marketing your message; thinking safety to prevent drownings and accidents; low head dams; and partnering. In addition, conference organizers are planning educational and

interesting off-site activities. The deadline to register for the \$350 conference rate is February 5, 2007.

The Summit is being held at the Crowne Plaza Riverwalk in the historic and cultural heart of the San Antonio. Call 210.354.2800 to reserve your room now with a conference room rate of only \$103 (mention IBWSS when calling). The last day to reserve a room at the Summit rate is February 5, 2007.

Visit www.watersafetycongress.org and www.safeboatingcouncil.org for additional conference, presenter, scholarship, exhibitor, sponsor and deadline information.



NMMA Embarks on Youth-Oriented Partnership

The National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA) has partnered with Captain Kids, a national organization designed to connect kids, parents and educators to a broad range of maritime activities in, on and under the water. The partnership will include Captain Kids Discovery Point Exhibit hosted at several NMMA boat shows and sport shows throughout the 2007 season.

The Discovery Point Exhibit will be unveiled at its first NMMA show January 10-14, 2007, at the New Orleans Boat Show. The interactive exhibits featured in Discovery Point encompass several unique stations to encourage children to get interested and involved in the water, such as building a model boat, knot tying and boater's safety. Other features include designated areas to explore and identify different types of boats, ocean literacy, fishing and conservation. Parents can enjoy the exhibit with their children and learn more about particular boats and how to get connected in their own areas.

"We're excited to work with an organization such as Captain Kids that naturally aligns with the long-term goals of

the boating industry and the industry-wide Grow Boating initiative," said Ben Wold, NMMA executive vice president. "NMMA boat and sport shows offer an exceptional opportunity to introduce children and their parents to the joys of the on-the-water lifestyle."

"Captain Kids is designed to get children involved in the marine industry at an early age while also educating them on the environment, ocean science, boating destinations and other aquatic information," said Tom Griffin, president of Captain Kids. "Working with the NMMA to bring this program to several shows in 2007 will help share the enthusiasm and boating know-how with thousands of families around the country. This partnership demonstrates a clear industry commitment to the next generation of boaters and the stewards of our greatest natural resource—water."

Future Captain Kids aquatic awareness campaigns will reach out to schools and local community youth organizations nationwide.

For more information on NMMA boat shows and Captain Kids, please

contact Kelly Kaylor at 312.946.6262; kkaylor@nmma.org.

NMMA is the leading association representing the recreational boating industry. NMMA member companies produce more than 80 percent of the boats, engines, trailers, accessories and gear used by boaters and anglers in the United States. The association is dedicated to industry growth through programs in public policy, market research and data, product quality assurance and marketing communications.

Captain Kids (www.captainkids.org) is a non-profit, national initiative connecting kids, parents and educators to activities in, on and under the water, with the mission to help all children discover the rich aquatic environment. It seeks to ignite a lifetime interest in the world of water. From water sports to maritime culture, from boating and fishing to aquariums and maritime museums, Captain Kids helps children explore and participate in lifetime activities.



Small Passenger Vessel Safety Seminar

The National Transportation Safety Board's Offices of Marine Safety and Safety Recommendations recently hosted a two-day seminar on small passenger-vessel safety on sole state waters with its U.S. Coast Guard and state partners. NTSB Chairman Mark Rosenker opened the seminar with a wish for a successful outcome that would help prevent future accidents.

About 70 participants attended the event on Oct. 4-5, 2006, including representation from 27 states and territories and several marine safety organizations. The purpose of the seminar was to familiarize state officials with the Coast Guard's regulatory program for small passenger vessels. Experts in the field presented a variety of perspectives on

topics including certification and safety inspection issues; construction and arrangement of passenger vessels; stability and seaworthiness; passenger and crew safety and Reporting of accidents/ incidents.

The impetus for this exchange was the October 2, 2005 sinking of the Ethan Allen in Lake George, NY, and the tragic loss of 20 lives. During the NTSB's accident investigation, staff identified a deficiency among the states in effectively regulating small passenger vessel safety.

The technical program examined U.S. Coast Guard policies and practices developed from more than 50 years of experience in regulating small passenger vessels. Experts presented information on a variety of topics including safety inspection, construction and arrangement of passenger vessels, stability and seaworthiness, passenger safety and crew qualifications, emergency procedures and drills, and accident reporting and investigation.



In October, approximately 70 representatives from the National Transportation Safety Board, U.S. Coast Guard, state agencies and vessel safety associations attending a seminar on small passenger-vessel safety. Photo courtesy National Transportation Safety Board



Cecilia Duer Receives Cardinal Award for Boating Safety Education Efforts

National Water Safety Congress Executive Director Cecilia Duer was honored during the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Hall of Fame induction ceremonies hosted October 20 in Columbus, Ohio. Duer received ODNR's Cardinal Award, which recognizes special achievement in promotion of conservation and education programs.

"Cecilia Duer is well recognized on the state, regional and national level for her dedication to recreational boating and water safety education," said Michael E. Quinn, acting chief of the ODNR Division of Watercraft.

Duer is considered a cornerstone for recreational boating safety and boater education in northeastern Ohio. In addition to leading the National Water Safety Congress, Duer is the executive director of the Spirit of America Foundation's Youth Education Program.

The National Water Safety Congress was established in 1951 to promote boating safety education and encourages individual states to create and maintain effective boating safety education programs. The Spirit of America Foundation also promotes and provides boating safety education programs across northeast Ohio and elsewhere.

Through the Foundation's hands-on boating and water safety education courses, Duer has helped educate more than 2,000 young Ohioans. Additionally, she has assisted communities across the country to establish water safety awareness groups. Duer has volunteered with the ODNR Division of Watercraft and partnered with the U.S. Coast Guard and northeast Ohio area fire and police departments to advance their boater education goals.



Hawaii Resident Elected National Commodore of U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary

Steven M. Budar, born in Hawaii and a resident of the Big Island since 1996, was recently elected to serve as the National Commodore of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. He will serve a two-year term, beginning November 1, 2006.

Commodore Budar joined the Auxiliary in 1985 and has served in all elected positions within the Auxiliary, including National Vice Commodore. His most recent duties included serving as National Vice Commodore, and President and Chief Operating Officer of the Coast Guard Auxiliary Association Inc., the nonprofit entity providing financial support to the 30,000 civilian volunteers of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. Commodore Budar is qualified as a coxswain (small boat operator), aircrew and instructor.

Commodore Budar is a 1974 graduate of the University of Michigan School of Business. He began his business career with ALCOA Aluminum in Pittsburgh, Penn., and then entered the insurance business in 1977 in Southern California. He has owned and operated insurance agencies in California and Hawaii since 1977.

Budar has also been active in other leadership positions in the community. He served as president of the Kona Executives Association, president of the East Honolulu Association of Life Underwriters, and chairman of the Life Underwriters Political Action Committee. He is also a member of the Society of Financial Service Professionals.



Former Commandant Kime Dies



Adm. John William Kime, 72, a former U.S. Coast Guard commandant who was passionate about maritime safety and environmental protection issues, died Sept. 14 in Baltimore following a valiant struggle with cancer. Kime served as commandant of the Coast Guard from 1990 to 1994, where he oversaw implementation of the landmark Oil Pollution Act of 1990 and established the position of drug interdiction coordinator.

"This is a very sad day for the Coast Guard," said Adm. Thad Allen, commandant of the Coast Guard. "The Coast Guard lost a close member of our family, and America has lost a great leader. In the wake of the Exxon Valdez oil spill, Adm. Kime pioneered how the Coast Guard now prevents and responds to oil and hazardous chemical spills, significantly minimizing the environmental damage caused by such spills. His legacy can be seen today in how the Coast Guard responds to a broad range of threats and hazards to our maritime, homeland, and national security interests."

"Our heartfelt condolences go out to his wife, Valerie, their children, and the entire Kime family during this very difficult time," Allen said.

Kime was nominated to become the 19th commandant of the Coast Guard by President George Bush and, following Senate confirmation, he relieved Adm. Paul A. Yost, Jr., on May 31, 1990. Kime's official Coast Guard biography can be found at www.uscg.mil/hq/gc/history/JWKimeBio.html.



Minnesota Boating Educator Receives Awards

Tim Smalley, the boating education coordinator for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), was awarded top honors at the Association of Conservation Information (ACI) national conference held recently in Orlando, Fla.

Smalley received two first place awards and an award of special recognition from the ACI, the organization of state and federal natural resource communications specialists. One top honor was for his poster titled “Fish Locator.” The poster had a photograph of an angler’s LCD fish locator with a graphic representation of a human body on the screen. “I thought by using a little dark humor, combined with the easily recognized image of a fish finder, it would grab the attention of fishermen without grossing anyone out,” Smalley said.

The other first place award Smalley received was for a duck hunting safety

radio public safety announcement. The spot featured two hunters talking about packing for their hunting trip and one keeps saying he thinks he forgot something. A rather crabby duck keeps yelling “Life Jacket!”, somewhat reminiscent of a popular insurance-peddling waterfowl.

The ACI also gave a Special Award of Recognition for Smalley’s water safety podcasts. The organization was impressed with the cutting-edge use of a new technology by a government agency, as well as the high quality of the productions done on almost no budget.

“We don’t bill the podcasts as water safety shows, but rather how to catch more fish or how to shoot more ducks. If we told



Tim Smalley’s creativity and sharp wit earned him kudos from a national conservation information organization.

sportsmen they were safety messages, folks would avoid them in droves,” Smalley noted. Each of Minnesota’s podcasts racks up several thousand downloads.

The Minnesota podcasts are also e-mailed as MP3 audio files statewide to radio stations to use as their own programming. They can also sell advertising as

long as the sponsors fit within guidelines provided by the Minnesota DNR.

The Minnesota DNR will share any of their ads or poster graphics to state or federal boating safety agencies. Contact Smalley at 651.259.5354 or tim.smalley@dnr.state.mn.us.



Boating Officers Risk Lives to Save Lives, Property

Recently, six officers with the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency were honored for risking their lives to save lives and property.

Wildlife Officer Mike Bailey answered a call about an unmanned boat towing two people on a tube. A father was operating his boat; one of his daughters was the observer. When they hit a wake, both were ejected from the boat. A nearby boat rescued the father and daughter, but the boat continued operating in large circles, still towing the mother and the other daughter on the tube.

When Officer Bailey arrived, he tried to stop the runaway boat by pitching a rope in front of the boat, hoping to foul the propeller. When this tactic failed, he tried ramming the boat to stop it. Meanwhile, the unmanned boat continued in progressively smaller circles, still towing the mother and daughter. About this time, Bailey lost the forward gear in his patrol boat. The circles were getting so small that the mother and daughter were literally pushing off the side of the boat.

Officer Bailey proceeded in reverse gear and entered the path of the runaway vessel. When the boat rammed on top of

the stern of the officer’s boat, he was able to board the vessel and shut off the engine. What probably would have been a terrible tragedy was completely turned around because of Officer Bailey’s brave, outstanding performance.

Wildlife Officers Dale Grandstaff and Jereme Odom were called to assist the county rescue squad in rescuing two teenage males who jumped off a bridge into the flooding, swift water of Ringgold Creek. The teenagers were caught in the boils of a lowhead dam.

When Grandstaff and Odom arrived in their flat bottom patrol boat, the rescue squad’s inflatable boat had overturned and the two rescue squad members were pinned in the boils of the dam. With Officer Grandstaff operating the boat, Officer Odom freed the squad members. On the last attempt, the patrol boat capsized and caught in the boils against the dam. While the officers were being tossed about in the water, Officer Odom’s inflatable life jacket was ripped off. It was dark and both officers were being battered by the force of the water and debris so fiercely that they couldn’t recognize which way was up in the water.

Officer Grandstaff was able to pull himself and Officer Odom to safety. Officer Odom was admitted to the local hospital and released the next day. One rescue squad member was taken to the nearest hospital but died a couple of days later. Regrettably, the two teens drowned. Officers Grandstaff and Odom exhibited their inherent sense of duty in this remarkable rescue attempt.

Wildlife Officers Ben Franklin, Tony Cross and Tommy Alexander were called to a marina fire in the early morning. A houseboat had caught on fire and the flames were spreading to other boats.

The officers went from boat to boat to ensure everyone had evacuated. Then they began cutting lines and towing the burning boats away from the marina. Most of the boats were houseboats with propane tanks, generators and other flammables that could cause a massive explosion.

Officers Franklin, Alexander and Cross towed 12 burning houseboats and one burning pontoon boat away from the marina. While property damage was in the hundreds of thousands of dollars, millions of dollars were spared by the actions of these officers.





Commodore Warren E. McAdams
National Directorate Commodore for Recreational Boating Safety, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary

Challenges from the Newer Generations

When we talk about law enforcement and various boating issues, we sometimes forget to account for how the newer or younger generations view our world. Not to get into a bookish discussion on baby boomers, Generation X and Generation Y, but we are facing differing expectations out there.

When we look at the issues that are important to boating, our main focus points are safety, security and fun. We want people to wear life jackets and pay attention to navigation rules so they'll live to boat again. We inform boaters about naval vessel security zones and local restrictions in various ports and harbors. On a broad scale, we are concerned with the potential threat small boats can be to commercial or military vessels. Another prevalent topic is vessel identification schemes to enhance security and reduce possible terrorist actions. While we continue encouraging boaters to wear life jackets, we also make efforts to deliver similar messages to hunters and anglers.

Despite our efforts, the fact remains that many younger people are nonconformists. They do not want to wear suits to work, and many do not want to wear life jackets.

Those who make and sell boats want to emphasize the fun and pleasure that can be derived from boating. In addition, more and more water toys are being introduced to attract those looking for excitement and adventure.

Those of us in volunteer boating safety organizations want to entice members of the emerging generations to join our efforts. Somehow we must find ways to demonstrate that our efforts are meaningful and helpful to others. While various government agencies and volunteer groups encourage and value our contributions, we must find ways to generate enthusiasm among younger members.

In the Coast Guard Auxiliary we expect members to wear uniforms as they perform certain tasks or duties. More recently, existing and potential new members must undergo personnel security investigations. We expect new members to adapt to our rules and our way of doing things. On the other hand, people in the younger generations expect organizations to adapt to them. How do we bridge the generation gap?

There is some good news. The Generation Y folks tend to favor teamwork and enjoy working on new challenges. However, they do get bored quickly and prefer not to stick with the same tasks or duties. They require lots of feedback and have diverse interests away from work or dedicated volunteer activities.

All of these dynamics affect the hiring of people for pay and has a big impact on the ability of volunteer organizations to attract new members. Beyond that, the next challenge is to maintain new hires and new members. If interest wanes the

younger generation is geared to looking elsewhere for new challenges or bigger salaries. And, in volunteer groups, many seek assignments that they can complete and move on to something new. Working for two years to qualify for boat crew duties does not fit their style.

Much of what we do in the boating safety arena, whether for pay or as a volunteer, is somewhat repetitious and aimed at a basic level of education. The younger generations are not likely to stick with the same tasks, such as teaching public education, over a long period.

Of course generalities do not apply to all young people. However, it is getting harder and more challenging to attract people to some types of work and many volunteer opportunities. What motivates and drives the younger generations is real to them and different from the way many of us think.

Several other factors play into the viewpoints and expectations of the younger generations. As you look around at the various meetings we attend, many or most boating safety professionals and volunteers are pre boomers or barely into that grouping. As we look for ways to change behaviors on the waterways, we need to learn more about the newer generations and what will cause them to buy in to what many of us think are "correct behaviors."



Commodore McAdams Receives Bonner Award

Commodore Warren E. McAdams of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary received NASBLA's Bonner Award.

The Bonner Award has been presented since 1971. It is awarded to a state or federal boating official who exemplifies the leadership qualities displayed by former Congressman Herbert C. Bonner of North Carolina, author of the Bonner Act (better known as the Federal Boating Safety Act of 1958). This award has been presented to numerous U.S. Senators and Congressmen, state boating law administrators, and Coast Guard personnel over the years.

Commodore Warren McAdams has served as a member of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary since 1981. He has been a member of several flotillas, most recently Flotilla 53 in Cincinnati, Ohio. He was District Commodore and served as Department Chief for Boating from January 1997 to September 2001. He currently serves as the National Directorate Commodore for Recreational Boating Safety.

Commodore McAdams' exceptional leadership and dedication has had a positive impact on recreational boating safety. He continues establishing and strengthening partnerships for the benefit of recreational boating safety. One such valuable partnership is the one he maintains with the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators, including regular participation at committee meetings, as well as authoring six articles each year since 2001 for the association's Small Craft Advisory magazine.

Additionally, Commodore McAdams supported efforts that continued or established six states as providers in the Vessel Safety Check (VSC) program and worked to secure funding from State Farm to support the VSC program for the years 2005-07 through a partnership agreement.

Commodore McAdams also represents the Auxiliary during meetings of the National Boating Safety Advisory Council (NBSAC).



Jeff Hoedt
Chief, Office of Boating Safety

Better Training for Better Law Enforcement

A principal strategy for enhancing boating safety and for providing the public, as a whole, with a more enjoyable boating experience is maritime law enforcement. Officers on the water not only enforce the law – they educate the public, promote safer and more courteous behavior by boaters, provide assistance in emergencies, and often risk their own lives to search for and rescue those in distress.

To provide excellent training opportunities to federal, state and local marine patrol officers, the Coast Guard offers specialized courses at its Maritime Law Enforcement Academy in Charleston, S.C. In addition to enhancing the officers' skills, these courses enhance the uniformity of the

services they provide. This uniformity is of great benefit to the public as boaters know their expectations of these officers do not have to vary substantially from location to location. It builds trust in the marine patrol officer community as a whole.

In this issue of *Small Craft Advisory*, we felt that there was no better individual to discuss the Coast Guard's courses than the coordinator himself, BM1 Kevin Dutrieux. I know that you'll learn from his article, and hopefully you will be even more compelled to take advantage of these courses.

Training Marine Patrol Officers to Keep Our Waters Safe

By BM1 Kevin M. Dutrieux, Coordinator, Marine Patrol Officer Course, U.S. Coast Guard

The U.S. Coast Guard's Maritime Law Enforcement Academy (MLEA), located in Charleston, S.C., offers two courses to assist federal, state and local officers in providing optimal service to the recreational boating community. These civilian law enforcement officers can attend the MPOC – Instructor (I) and the MPOC – Tactical (T).

The roots of the MPOC date back to 1983's National Boating Safety Instructor's Course (NSBIC), which was established to train maritime law enforcement officers in the enforcement of boating safety laws. In 2000, the NSBIC was renamed the Marine Patrol Officers Course, and the curriculum was updated to include practical field knowledge as well as instructor development skills. MPOC is now designated as MPOC-I. This two-week course, offered twice a year, provides an opportunity for officers across the country to learn instructor techniques they can take back to their states as they deliver inter-service training and boating safety to the public.

The first week of MPOC-I provides extensive coursework in instructor development. Courses of instruction include Verbal and Non-verbal Communications, Adult Learning Theory, Questioning Techniques, Training Aids, Lesson Plan Development, and Performance-Based Training, to name a few. Students can hone their instructor skills with a series of shorter presentations, including our personal favorite, the 2-minute "There I was...and the moral of

the story is." This provides a better understanding of the "morals" our marine patrol officers face.

The presentations culminate with a 50-minute boating safety equipment presentation in front of the MPOC staff and students. Feedback is provided, and the students receive a DVD of their presentation to use as a guide as they continue to develop as instructors. The second week is devoted to training many of the field skills a marine patrol officer must possess. Coast Guard instructors train on Boarding Procedures, Boating Under the Influence, Navigation Rules, and Water Survival Techniques. Outside instructors assist the MPOC staff during these presentations. For example, representatives of the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) teach Accident Investigation while representatives from the International Association of Marine Investigators (IAMI) teach Marine Theft Investigations.

The MPOC-T course is not a continuation of the MPOC-I course. Rather, it focuses on another area of law enforcement training. The development of the "T" course resulted from a focus group meeting. MLEA staff and NASBLA representatives hammered out an excellent course with a more hands-on approach, with offerings in Handcuffing, Pressure Points, Tactical Procedures followed by multiple dynamic scenarios in the Coast Guard Shoot House, Methamphetamine Labs, Basic Navigation and Plotting Scenarios, Search and Rescue, Vessel on

Vessel Use of Force and Security Zone Enforcement, as well as coursework in Boarding Procedures, Vessel Documentation, and the Coast Guard's Use of Force Policy. Students receive a four-hour block of instruction on Federal Carriage Requirements and then conduct multiple recreational boardings on the boarding platforms to ensure the vessels are in compliance with all federal carriage requirements. They also study Advanced Water Survival Techniques, Hazardous Situations and Confined Spaces, Firearms Law and Documentation, Boating Under the Influence, as well as the 24-Hour DUI Standardized Field Sobriety Test Course (approved by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration) with a Live Alcohol Workshop. As with the MPOC-I course, representatives from NASBLA and IAMI assist with the course.

The first convening of the MPOC-T course was held in April 2006. Based on student feedback, it was a huge success. States that hadn't sent officers to MPOC for awhile started asking about seats. The next classes will be held in February and March 2007. As Admiral Thad Allen, commandant of the Coast Guard, mentioned in his remarks at the NASBLA conference, the interagency cooperation between the Coast Guard and the maritime officers at all levels is paramount as we adjust to the new normalcy. As the roles of marine patrol officers evolve, the MLEA will continue to be in the forefront, providing guidance and expertise to its students.



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2007 RECREATIONAL BOATING SAFETY CALENDAR

JANUARY 2007

17 - 21
US SAILING
National Sailing Programs Symposium
New Orleans, LA
401.683.0800 or www.ussailing.org

31 - February 4
National Sheriffs' Association
Winter Meeting
Washington, D.C.
703.836.7827 or www.sheriffs.org

FEBRUARY 2007

6 - 7
NASBLA
Executive Board Meeting
Charleston, South Carolina
859.225.9487 or www.nasbla.org

20 - 25
United States Power Squadrons
Annual Meeting
Jacksonville, Florida
888.367.8777 or www.usps.org

24
NASBLA
Boating Accident Investigation, Reporting &
Analysis Committee Meeting
Panama City, Florida
859.225.9487 or chris@nasbla.org

24
NASBLA
Numbering & Titling Committee Meeting
Panama City, Florida
859.225.9487 or ron@nasbla.org

25 - 28
International Association of Marine Investigators Inc.
Annual Training Seminar
Panama City Beach, Florida
866.844.4264 or www.iamimarine.org

MARCH 2007

3
NASBLA
Marketing & Outreach Committee Meeting
San Antonio, Texas
859.225.9487 or gail@nasbla.org

3
NASBLA
Training & Certification Committee Meeting
San Antonio, Texas
859.225.9487 or chris@nasbla.org

4
NASBLA
Education Committee Meeting
San Antonio, Texas
859.225.9487 or gail@nasbla.org

4 - 7
National Boating Safety Council and
National Water Safety Congress
International Boating and Water Safety Summit
San Antonio, Texas
703.361.4294 or 440.209.9805

26
Northern Association of Boating Administrators
Spring Meeting
Lexington, Kentucky
859.225.9487 or info@nasbla.org

26
Southern States Boating Law Administrators Assoc.
Spring Meeting
Lexington, Kentucky
859.225.9487 or info@nasbla.org

27
NASBLA
Paddlesports Committee Meeting
Lexington, Kentucky
859.225.9487 or gail@nasbla.org

27
NASBLA
Law Enforcement Committee Meeting
Lexington, Kentucky
859.225.9487 or chris@nasbla.org

MARCH 2007 (CONTINUED)

27
NASBLA
Waterways Management Committee Meeting
Lexington, Kentucky
859.225.9487 or deb@nasbla.org

28 - 29
NASBLA
Spring BLA Workshop
Lexington, Kentucky
859.225.9487 or info@nasbla.org

APRIL 2007

28
National Boating Federation
Spring Meeting
Clearwater, Florida
727.441.8811

MAY 2007

6 - 9
Western States Boating Administrators Association
Annual Conference
Laughlin, Nevada
859.225.9487 or info@nasbla.org

9 - 11
Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council
Working Waterways & Waterfronts - A National
Symposium on Water Access
Norfolk, Virginia
www.wateraccess2007.com

15 - 16
NASBLA
Spring Executive Board Meeting
Washington, DC
859.225.9487 or info@nasbla.org

Small Craft Advisory

2007 EDITORIAL CALENDAR

January/February

Training

Deadline November 15

March/April

Marketing/Outreach

Deadline January 17

May/June

Injury Prevention

Deadline March 21

July/August

Boating Accidents

Deadline May 16

September/October

Education

Deadline July 18

November/December

Law Enforcement

Deadline September 19

In addition to each issue's topic, we also accept news tips, Boating Briefs, People items and other timely articles throughout the year. These items will be printed as space allows.

Please e-mail all materials to editor@nasbla.org or mail to SMALL CRAFT ADVISORY Submissions, 1500 Leestown Road, Suite 330, Lexington, KY 40511. If you have any questions, call 859.225.9487.