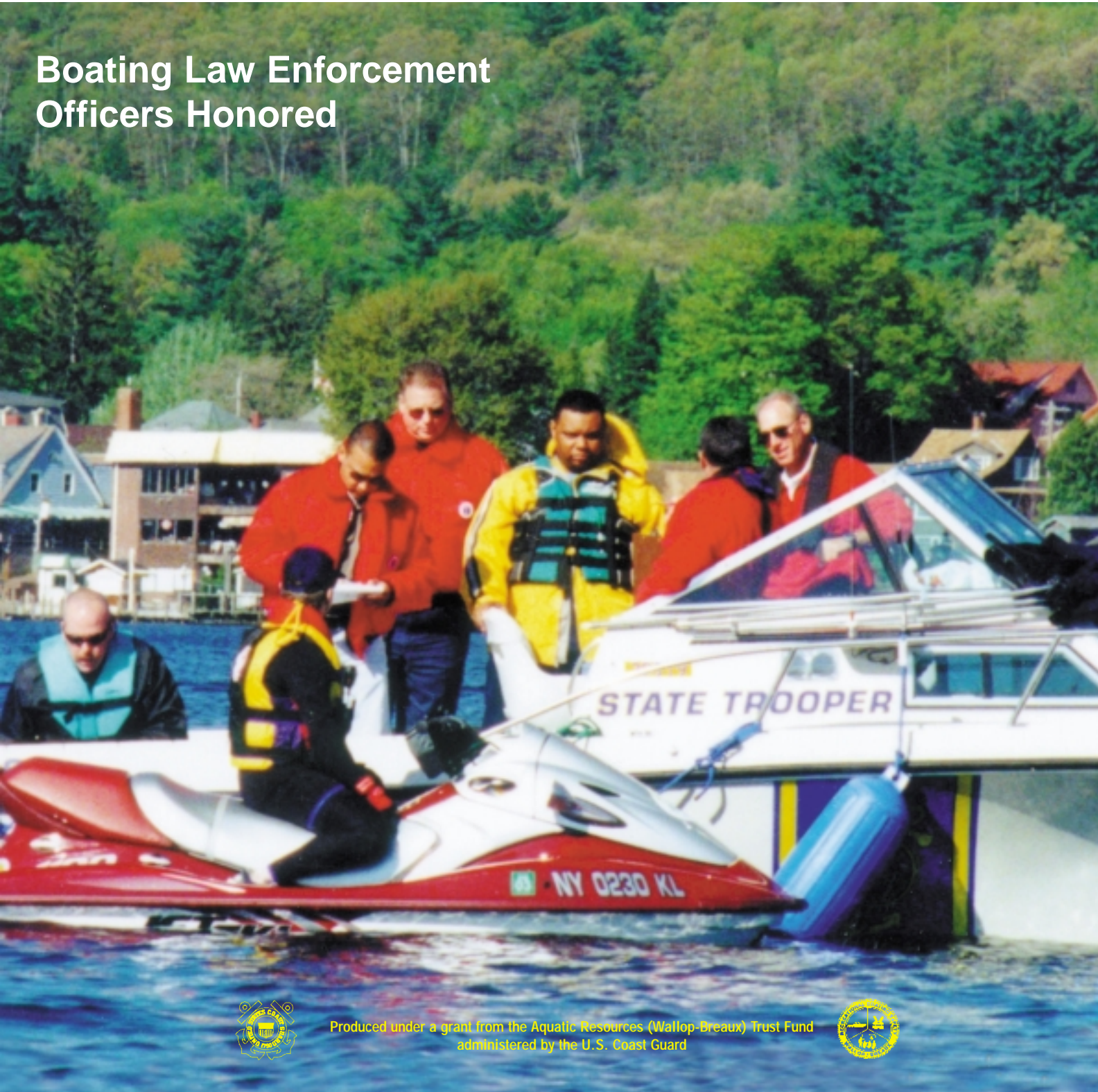


s m a l l c r a f t a d v i s o r y

NOV/DEC 2002 VOL. 17 - NO. 6

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE BOATING LAW ADMINISTRATORS

## Boating Law Enforcement Officers Honored



Produced under a grant from the Aquatic Resources (Wallop-Breaux) Trust Fund  
administered by the U.S. Coast Guard





Alvin Taylor  
NASBLA President



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE  
BOATING LAW ADMINISTRATORS

## New President Takes Over the Helm

It was certainly an honor and a privilege for me to accept the presidency of the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) when Steve Hall passed on the fid to me during the organization's annual conference in Cleveland. I would like to thank Steve on the high quality of leadership and the professionalism he portrayed while serving as NASBLA's president, as our

Collins comment, "Safety and security are inseparable. You really can't have one without the other." He then assured everyone that the plan is for the Coast Guard to move in its entirety to the new Department of Homeland Security, taking with them all of their boating safety programs.

It was also noteworthy that Admiral Collins stated that the U.S. Coast Guard "remains committed to working with [NASBLA and the states] on your effort to secure equitable and stable funding for your [boating safety] programs." The Executive Board of NASBLA and I look forward to working with Admiral Collins in building a strong partnership as we move forward together to achieve this funding.

Shortly after the annual conference, I was invited to appear before the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB). I made a presentation on the states' progress in addressing the variety of boating safety issues listed on the NTSB's "Most Wanted List" for safety improvements, including personal flotation devices, education, boating under the influence programs, and so on.

I also addressed the upcoming reauthorization of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21). In this discussion, I focused on our efforts in obtaining a fair and equitable share of the motorboat fuel tax. At the conclusion of the meeting, it was my honor to present Acting Chair Carol Carmody a framed copy of NASBLA Resolution #2002-3, which commends NTSB for its initiative and support for improvements in state boating safety issues.

The jury is still out on our efforts to achieve consensus from the American League of Anglers and Boaters on the reauthorization of TEA-21. This is an issue of high priority to our Executive Board and membership, and you can be sure we will give it our best effort.



Carol J. Carmody, acting chair of the National Transportation Safety Board, accepts a framed copy of the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators Resolution 2002-3 from NASBLA President Alvin Taylor. The resolution commends the National Transportation Safety Board for its initiative and support for improvements in state boating safety. *Staff photo*

association strives to make "safe and enjoyable boating a reality on our nation's waterways."

It was very timely for Admiral Thomas Collins, commander of the U.S. Coast Guard, to serve as our keynote speaker during the annual NASBLA conference. Admiral Collins discussed President Bush's plan for restructuring government, which involves creating a new Department of Homeland Security. He explained that the President's purpose is to strengthen the ability of our nation to prepare our response to a variety of threats to the security of our homeland. We all were happy to hear Admiral

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### ABOUT THE COVER

New York Zone Sergeant Mark Phillips (far right) dedicates numerous hours toward boating safety education and enforcement. Phillips has distinguished himself as a leader in New York's Marine Law Enforcement Training program. In this photograph, he instructs students on conducting a proper vessel stop during the state's Basic Marine Law Enforcement School held in Lake George, NY. Phillips's relentless efforts have contributed significantly to New York's overall boating safety efforts to educate the public and reduce fatalities on the state's waterways. For this, he has been selected as the National Boating Law Enforcement Officer of the Year for 2002 by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators.

Photo courtesy New York Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation



# Law Enforcement Officers Highly Valuable to Boating Safety

By George Stewart, Ed Carter, Charlie Clark and John Johnson

In this issue of *Small Craft Advisory*, NASBLA recognizes and celebrates the contributions boating law enforcement officers make to our nation's recreational boating safety programs. No resource available to state boating law authorities is more important or more highly valued than the men and women who dedicate their lives to making boating safer and more enjoyable.

The marine enforcement environment has never been more complex. In addition to the wide array of public safety duties already undertaken by boating law enforcement officers, following the events of September 11, 2001, marine patrol officers nationwide awoke to a completely new set of challenges and responsibilities.

The January/February 2002 issue of *Small Craft Advisory* gave a detailed reporting of the new and enhanced roles boating enforcement professionals are playing in homeland defense. Port security details, protection of sensitive economic and industrial zones, increased patrols to secure key transportation corridors, and re-tasking to offset enforcement voids elsewhere have become the new reality for boating law enforcement officers.

Once the almost exclusive purview of their counterparts in the U.S. Coast Guard, state and local marine patrol officers now routinely share responsibilities for protecting assets along our nation's 95,000 miles of coastline and inland waterways. In the new war on terrorism, our multi-use waterways have become host to an attractive assortment of targets that can only be protected by security forces on the water.

National boating safety advocate and one of the fathers of the Aquatic Resources Trust Fund,

Louisiana Senator John Breaux summed up the dangers to our waterfront and marine installations by noting "the greatest threat along the river is from a small vessel loaded with explosives that could be detonated near an oil tanker or cruise ship." Citing the lethal attack on the *U.S.S. Cole* in the Arabian Gulf as an example, the Senator expressed the concerns of many that our marine infrastructure remains vulnerable to assault from even the most unsuspected types of watercraft.

Despite these increased security threats and the enhanced patrol and surveillance capabilities brought to bear in responding to them, marine officers continue to fulfill their more traditional "public safety" roles every day. Coming from agency backgrounds as diverse as parks and recreation, state police, fish and wildlife conservation, and dedicated water patrols, as well as a multitude of local law enforcement agencies, the contemporary marine enforcement officer is multi-talented and multi-mission oriented. Their training and experience prepares them for unusual circumstances and teaches them to think on their feet, and their commitment to public service and safer boating saves lives – thousands of lives, in fact.

The U.S. Coast Guard estimates that over 27,000 lives have been saved and countless injuries avoided over the last three decades, many of those the direct result of the efforts of the men and women engaged in boating law enforcement. Perhaps because so much of their work is conducted in areas away from the public eye, many heroic aspects of the boating enforcement professional's job go unnoticed. After all, how do you quantify or even acknowledge the value of an accident that

didn't happen? How do you measure the emotional and financial benefit to a family who didn't lose a father or mother, son or daughter? How do you know when a vessel safety inspection, or a deserved citation, or the use of loaner life jacket, or even a five-minute lecture on the dangers of wake-jumping becomes the difference in a benign afternoon on the water and a life-changing tragedy? The difference is often razor-thin and frequently comes down to the preparation, perseverance and proactiveness of our boating law enforcement personnel.

NASBLA and its boating safety partners nationwide remain steadfastly committed to supporting, improving and advancing boating law and marine enforcement professionals. This support takes the form of research and development to make their working environment safer and more officer friendly, training and instruction to make their actions more effective, and national policy guidance and regulatory development to give them better tools to do their job. But perhaps the most important role we play to help the officer on the water is our ongoing advocacy for an equitable share of the motorboat fuel tax and sustainable funding for the national Recreational Boating Safety program.

The next 12 months provide a critical window of opportunity for the recreational boating community to take a stand for safer boating. The boating public deserves no less, nor do our boating law enforcement professionals. We hope you will join us in working together to secure boating safety's fair share.

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## Support for 50/50 Split Grows

The National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) and the National Boating Safety Advisory Council (BSAC) continue building bridges in preparation of the 2003 reauthorization of the Aquatic Resources (Wallop-Breaux) Trust Fund. The organizations are attempting to acquire a 50/50 split of the federal fuel tax attributable to motorboat fuel between the Boating Safety and Sport Fish Restoration accounts. The list of organizations supporting the 50/50 split continues to grow.

- \* American Canoe Association
- \* American Council of Marine Associations
- \* American Sailing Association
- \* American Waterways Operators
- \* Boston Whaler
- \* Brunswick Corporation
- \* Coast Guard Auxiliary Association
- \* International Association of Marine Investigators
- \* Marine Retailers Association of America
- \* Mercury Marine
- \* National Association of Independent Insurers

- \* National Boating Federation
- \* National Recreational Boating Safety Coalition
- \* National Safe Boating Council
- \* National Sheriffs' Association
- \* National Water Safety Congress
- \* Personal Watercraft Industry Association
- \* Sea Ray Boats
- \* SOS Incorporated
- \* United States Power Squadrons
- \* U.S. Sailing Association

Organizations in blue are the most recent to join the list of supporters.

# NASBLA Conference Held in Cleveland

By Kimberly Hermes

To wrap up their work for the fiscal year 2002 and make plans for upcoming years, the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators gathered its members and associates in Cleveland, Ohio, for its 43rd annual conference held Sept. 8-11, 2002. Hosted by the Ohio Division of Watercraft, the conference attracted over 200 people, including more than 40 boating law administrators (BLAs).

The conference involved sharing information about current issues and trends in recreational boating safety. During general sessions, speakers discussed topics including building partnerships, promoting boating safety, the Wallop-Breaux Trust Fund, drinking and recreational boating, paddlecraft safety, and public attitudes.

Dr. Edward Mahoney with Michigan State University discussed the trends surrounding recreational boating. He pointed out that participation in recreational boating appears to be declining due to reasons such as competition from other recreational pursuits, the aging of the population and health concerns. Mahoney also discussed the positive steps being taken by the boating industry with regards to education and the environment.

Dr. Gary Green with the USDA Forest Service presented the findings from the National Survey on Recreation and the Environment 2000. The study finds that outdoor recreation continues to be immensely popular among Americans, with 97 percent of those age 16 and over participating in some form of outdoor recreation in 2000. The survey also indicates that participation in motor boating has increased nearly 53 percent since 1982, with 51.4 million people taking part in the activity in the year 2000.

Ohio's Acting BLA Ken Alvey, John Onacilla with the Greater Cleveland Boating Association and David Rickard, past rear commander with the United States Power Squadrons, discussed tactics for building partnerships and strengthening constituencies to promote recreational boating agenda items.

Tennessee BLA Ed Carter and Jeanne Timmons with the U.S. Coast Guard Office of Boating Safety gave an update presentation on the reauthorization of Wallop-Breaux Trust Fund. This was a good recap of the issues associated with seeking a more equitable split of the funds between the Sport Fish Restoration account and the Boat Safety account.

Participants also attended various breakout sessions covering program planning, women in boating, training judges and prosecutors, working with the media, aquatic nuisance species, personal watercraft issues, issues in numbering and titling, and on-water demonstrations of boats and other products.

One highly attended breakout was a panel discussion about women in boating. Panelists included Margaret Podlich, environmental director for the BoatU.S. Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water; Pam Dillon, deputy chief of the Ohio Division of Watercraft; Ruth Wood, executive director of the BoatU.S. Foundation; and Monita Fontaine, vice president of Government Relations for the



*Lake Erie served as a good backdrop for the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators' 43rd annual conference. Held in Cleveland, Ohio, Sept. 8-11, 2002, the conference offered participants the opportunity to share and discuss information about current issues and trends in recreational boating safety.* Staff photos

National Marine Manufacturers Association. The panelists offered their individual backgrounds in boating and discussed the demographics and other relevant statistics regarding participation in boating by women. They also explained the need for industry and agencies to reach out to women and encourage them to participate in recreational boating.

Another well-received breakout session concerned judges and prosecutors in boating law cases. Capt. Alan Richard with the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission, discussed how judges and prosecutors are often unfamiliar with boating practices and the marine environment, nautical terminology, and maritime law. Richard explained how this works to the disadvantage of marine enforcement agencies. He then offered suggestions for overcoming this situation, such as offering ride-along programs, giving case-by-case assistance, and providing copies of state boating laws.

The breakout with perhaps the highest attendance concerned the impacts of PWC use on waterway recreation. David Jenkins, director of Conservation & Public Policy for the American Canoe Association, presented findings from a recent report completed by the paddlesport organization. *Hostile Waters: The Impact of Personal Watercraft Use on Waterway Recreation* addresses concerns with increasing numbers of accidents, safety, education, crowded waterways, enforcement difficulties and environmental impacts.

During the organization's business meeting, the membership discussed and adopted several resolutions. These positions are as follows:



*Admiral Thomas H. Collins, commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard, was the keynote speaker at NASBLA's annual conference held Sept. 8-11, 2002. Admiral Collins addressed the importance of partnerships and unity of effort for continuing to improve safety and reduce fatalities in recreational boating. The Commandant also restated the Coast Guard's commitment to working with NASBLA and its partners to secure equitable and stable funding for recreational boating safety programs.*

Photo courtesy U.S. Coast Guard Office of Boating Safety

### **Resolution 2002-1**

Requests that the U.S. Coast Guard implement a rule-making project to require manufacturers of inboard motorboats to install effective muffling systems on motorboats in constant use.

### **Resolution 2002-2**

Requests that the U.S. Coast Guard support and carry out an independent study of the availability and effectiveness of supplement flotation systems for canoes and kayaks.

### **Resolution 2002-3**

Commends the National Transportation Safety Board for its initiative and support for improvements in state boating safety.

### **Resolution 2002-4**

Expresses appreciation and gratitude to the organizations listed below for their current and continued support of NASBLA's proposal for a fair and equitable share of funding for recreational boating safety in the Wallop-Breaux Trust Fund.

American Canoe Association  
American Council of Marine Associations  
American Sailing Association  
American Waterways Operators  
Boston Whaler  
Brunswick Corporation  
Coast Guard Auxiliary Association  
International Association of Marine Investigators  
Marine Retailers Association of America  
Mercury Marine  
National Association of Independent Insurers  
National Boating Federation  
National Boating Safety Advisory Council  
National Recreational Boating Safety Coalition  
National Safe Boating Council  
National Sheriffs' Association  
National Water Safety Congress  
Personal Watercraft Industry Association  
Sea Ray Boats  
SOS Incorporated  
United States Power Squadrons  
U.S. Sailing Association

Each year during its conference, NASBLA recognizes those persons and organizations who have significantly contributed to boating safety.

### **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. Four persons received the Life Member Award for 2002:

Liz Raymond, retired boating law administrator (BLA) for Mississippi;  
Jeff Hoedt, former BLA for Ohio & Idaho;  
Mike Wilson, former BLA for Arkansas; and  
Paul Ouelette, former BLA for Florida.

### **The Boating Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award**

The Boating Law Enforcement Officer Award was implemented in 2000 through the efforts of NASBLA's Law Enforcement Committee. Sponsored by Boston Whaler Commercial & Government Products Inc., this honor is bestowed upon an outstanding boating law enforcement officer who has been named as his or her state's and region's officer of the year. The recipient of the national award for 2002 was Zone Sergeant Mark K. Phillips of the New York State Police, Troop T Marine Unit.

*Editor's note: For information on all state boating enforcement officers for 2001, including the national and regional winners, please read the special pullout section 'A Tribute to Boating Law Enforcement Officers' in the center of this magazine.*

### **The President's Special Awards**

NASBLA President Steve Hall selected two individuals for special recognition for their contributions to boating safety and NASBLA.

Virgil Chambers was selected for his tireless work on behalf of boating safety and his support of NASBLA in his role as Executive Director of the National Safe Boating Council.

As executive director, Chambers serves as the technical content advisor in direct support of National Safe Boating Council's education and information programs. He is responsible for the planning and development of the year-round national boating safety awareness campaign administered by the U.S. Coast Guard. Chambers also serves as a representative of the Council to national and international organizations, including serving as a member of NASBLA's Education Committee.



*NASBLA President Steve Hall (right) honored Virgil Chambers, National Safe Boating Council executive director, with the President's Special Award for his tireless work on behalf of boating safety and his support of NASBLA.*



*Utah Boating Law Administrator Ted Woolley (left) received the Bonner Award from NASBLA President Steve Hall for his years of hard work and dedication to boating safety and education.*

*Editor's note: The second award had not been presented by press time and information on that recipient will appear in the next issue of Small Craft Advisory.*

### **Bonner Award**

Since 1971 the Bonner Award has been presented to state or federal boating officials who exemplify the leadership qualities displayed by former Congressman Herbert C. Bonner, author of the Bonner Act (better known as the Federal Boating Safety Act of 1958).

Ted Woolley, past NASBLA president and current boating law administrator for Utah, earned the 2002 Bonner Award for his hard work and dedication to boating safety.

Woolley serves as a hands-on BLA for Utah's Division of Parks and Recreation. In this role, he is dedicated to educating Utah boaters, especially in the area of personal watercraft safety. Woolley also worked tirelessly while serving as a NASBLA Board member and during his watch as NASBLA's President in 1997-98. During his presidency, Woolley led NASBLA's endeavor to secure mandatory minimum federal boating safety through the Wallop-Breaux Trust Fund.

### **Lifetime Achievement Awards**

The NASBLA Lifetime Achievement Award is given to persons who have contributed to boating safety over their lifetimes.

Mike Wilson, former boating law administrator for Arkansas, earned one of the Lifetime Achievement Awards presented in 2002. Wilson was appointed boating law administrator for Arkansas in 1992 and expanded that state's boating safety program by hiring a program coordinator that same year. Wilson's work on boating legislation resulted in the first major boating safety law revisions in 36 years, including a mandatory PFD law for kids, BUI laws with implied consent, and mandatory investigation of boating accidents. Wilson



guided legislation in 1997 to require mandatory education for those persons born in 1986 or later.

In addition to being a BLA, Wilson served on both the Southern States Boating Law Administrators Association (SSBLAA) and NASBLA boards, served as SSBLAA president in 1994, NASBLA President in 2001, and hosted NASBLA's annual conference in 1999. Wilson contributed greatly to boating safety through his work with the National Safe Boating Council, Boating Industry Trade Show & the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation Board of Directors. He also helped NASBLA's mission of ensuring safe and enjoyable boating by addressing numerous trade groups, safety organizations, NBSAC, SOBA, ALAB, fish and wildlife groups and others.

*Editor's note: The second award had not been presented by press time and information on that recipient will appear in the next issue of Small Craft Advisory.*

#### **Past President's Award**

The President's Award is presented to the outgoing president of NASBLA in recognition of his or her service to the organization during the term of office.

During the past year, Steve Hall had his work cut out for him. His excellent efforts paid off. He worked diligently with the Executive Board and Executive Director George Stewart in continuing a strategy for accomplishing NASBLA's goal of safer and more enjoyable boating. He also studied ways to increase funding to achieve this goal. He worked very closely with NASBLA's valued partners in boating safety in industry, safety organizations, boater's groups, American League of Anglers and Boaters, and the U.S. Coast Guard. This award is a token of thanks from the NASBLA a job very well done.

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*NASBLA President bestowed the organization's Lifetime Achievement Award on Mike Wilson (right), former boating law administrator for Arkansas. Since his appointment as boating law administrator in 1992, Wilson helped NASBLA's mission of ensuring safe and enjoyable boating.*

## Virginia Boating Safety Education Coordinator Wins Boating Safety Award

Jeff Decker, Boating Safety Education coordinator for the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, received the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators' (NASBLA) Boating Safety Education Award during NASBLA's annual conference held Sept. 8-11, 2002, in Cleveland, Ohio.

NASBLA first presented the Boating Safety Award in 1992. Outdoor Empire Publishing supports the award and provides an attractive plaque and suitable gift to each recipient.

Decker earned the prestigious award for his dedication to boating safety education while serving as Virginia's boating Safety Education coordinator.

One of Decker's greatest accomplishments has been developing and working on a successful public information campaign regarding new boating laws for the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. This was one of Decker's first assignments when he joined the department in 1998. To accomplish his goals, Decker spoke to numerous civic

groups, other agencies and schools about the new laws beginning in 1998. He also undertook an extensive mass mailing. As a result, the number of boating accidents on Virginia waters was significantly reduced,

including a 45 percent reduction in personal watercraft accidents.

Decker has cultivated close working relationships with numerous boating safety organizations, including other state agencies in Virginia, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and the United States Power Squadrons. He helped create an electronic newsletter to help share information among boating safety organizations in Virginia. He's also worked with the state's paddlesports community, co-sponsoring a paddlesports symposium.

In other endeavors to reach the public about boating safety, Decker has produced an award-winning video for those boaters on Smith Mountain Lake titled "Just for Boaters" and he has produced a pamphlet on life jackets that won first place at the International Boating and Water Safety Summit. Decker also works diligently as a member of NASBLA's Education Committee and serves as a regional reviewer of boating safety courses.

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*Jeff Decker (center), Boating Safety Education coordinator with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, earned NASBLA's Boating Safety Education Award for his efforts in educating the public about boating safety. Posing with Decker are Bill Farden (left), owner of Outdoor Empire Publishing, and Steve Hall, NASBLA Past President. Staff photo*



# BOATING LAW ENFORCEMENT Officers



Indiana DNR

The responsibilities of today's boating law 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, protect citizens, 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.



Virginia DGIF

The National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) began awarding the Boating Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award in 2000. Sponsored with the generous support of Boston Whaler Commercial & Government Products, Inc., this program was designed to recognize outstanding boating law enforcement officers.

Each state selects a boating law enforcement officer. These officers then vie for one of three regional awards. The three regional winners then compete for the national award. The officers described in the following pages represent the top boating law enforcement officers in the nation.



South Carolina DNR



[www.nasbla.org](http://www.nasbla.org)

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*At its 43rd annual conference, the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators name New York State Police Zone Sergeant Mark Phillips as the 2002 Boating Law Enforcement Officer of the Year. NASBLA President Steve Hall (at left) presented Phillips with the award. Southeast Regional Manager Don Ellingsen with Boston Whaler Government & Commercial Products, the sponsor of NASBLA's Boating Law Enforcement Officer of the Year program, and New York Boating Law Administrator Brian Kempf (far right) were also present at the awards ceremony. Staff photo*

Zone Sergeant  
**Mark Phillips**  
Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation  
New York

Zone Sergeant Mark Phillips's relentless efforts have contributed significantly to New York's overall boating safety efforts to educate the public and reduce fatalities on the state's waterways. For this, he has been selected as both the Northern Region Boating Officer of the Year and the National Boating Law Enforcement Officer of the Year for 2002 by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators.

Phillips is the front line supervisor for the New York State Police Troop T Marine Unit. As such, he is responsible for all marine law enforcement patrols along the entire New York State Canal System, including the connecting lakes, encompassing 524 miles of waterways.

The results garnered by Phillips and his team for the 2001 boating season are impressive. This includes 2,622 boat hours and 3,440 personnel hours of marine patrols resulting in 547 vessel stops, 437 vessel inspections, 47 assists to boaters, 350 warnings, and 633 citations or arrests. They also conducted 26 searches for missing or overdue boaters, investigated seven boating accidents, patrolled 27 marine events and

spent 800 hours on special details including providing waterborne security following the events of September 11, 2001.

The New York Bureau of Marine & Recreational Vehicles recognizes the key to reducing boating fatalities is a two-pronged approach involving a strong enforcement presence combined with a rigorous effort to educate the boating public. Zone Sergeant Phillips has fully embraced this concept.

In addition to his superb enforcement efforts, he has dedicated a significant number of hours toward boating safety education. Within his team, he has developed a cadre of officers, including himself, who are certified as New York Safe Boating Course Instructors. During 2001, Phillips was responsible for presenting six boating safety courses, contributing to the education of more than 150 boaters ages 10 and older. In addition to formal education, Phillips gave informal educational presentations at numerous boat shows and waterborne educational events.

Zone Sergeant Phillips has distinguished himself as a leader in New York's Marine Law Enforcement Training program. When

it comes to this subject, he truly "walks the walk." He is a certified instructor in every boating safety enforcement course offered by his agency and is a co-founder of the Personal Watercraft Patrol Operator's Course.

During 2001 he was directly involved in the training of more than 160 officers from state, county and local enforcement agencies. He is a member of the curriculum committees for the Basic Marine Law Enforcement, Marine Patrol Vessel Operator and Personal Watercraft Patrol Operator courses.

Because of his widely recognized expertise, Phillips is frequently called upon to provide advice and coordination on marine law enforcement issues for the entire division of State Police. Additionally, he often represents the State Police on boating safety enforcement matters such as multi-agency task forces, boating under the influence saturation patrols, waterborne surveillance and security, and marine events.



# REGIONAL winners

## Southern Region Winner



Lieutenant  
**Ronald Henry**  
Department of Game & Inland Fisheries  
Virginia

Lt. Ron Henry has been with the Virginia Department of Inland Fisheries since 1987. Promoted to sergeant in 1993 and then to lieutenant in 2002, Henry coordinates law enforcement effort in a five-county area.

As an area sergeant, Henry coordinated activities in two counties and on Philpot and Smith Mountain lakes. These lakes combined with numerous rivers and streams place great demands on the officers in boating education and enforcement.

Henry demonstrates a positive attitude in rendering law enforcement service and is dedicated to providing excellent programs to civic and youth groups. He often leads the district in the number of boating safety presentations. He is dedicated to educating the youth in his region.

Because of the abundance of water in his region, Lt. Henry helped create and participates in Water Safety Days at local elementary and middle schools. The program is designed to familiarize students with basic water and boating safety principles.

Lt. Henry also strives to promote the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

through self-discipline and the ability to learn and hone skills associated with boating law enforcement. He uses these skills to train his colleagues along with enforcement personnel from other agencies. As part of this training, Lt. Henry is working with a local multi-jurisdictional SWAT team to organize a training agenda for officers in a marine environment.

In the spirit of cooperation, Lt. Henry maintains excellent working relationships with other wardens, peers, supervisors, members of other agencies, the media and the public. In Henry's 15-year career as a game warden, he has received many letters of commendation from both his supervisors and area citizens.

Lt. Henry takes a very aggressive stance on issues involving people operating boats while intoxicated. He has been recognized by Mothers Against Drunk Drivers, receiving awards three separate years for his outstanding law enforcement efforts in removing intoxicated operators from public waterways and highways.

## Western Region Winner



Game Warden  
**Mike Choma**  
Game & Fish Department  
Wyoming

Mike Choma has been stationed in Casper, Wyo., serving as the Department's East Casper Game Warden for the past 11 years.

His duties include watercraft law enforcement responsibilities on Alcova Reservoir, Pathfinder Reservoir and the North Platte River. These three bodies of water create a unique diversity of watercraft use ranging from recreational boaters to fly fishermen utilizing drift boats. The combination of resources availability, the demand for these resources and their proximity to a large population center in Wyoming create one of the heaviest watercraft enforcement workloads in the state.

Whether he is enforcing no-wake regulations, apprehending those boating under the influence or conducting complex watercraft accident investigations, Game Warden Choma carries out his watercraft enforcement responsibilities in a polite, professional and fair manner while striving to provide effective law enforcement and ensuring the safety of all watercraft recreationists and anglers. Choma's efforts have garnered considerable public support for watercraft law enforcement work.

His efforts go far beyond routine field law enforcement efforts. Warden Choma has been instrumental in administration of the state's watercraft program through his participation in numerous watercraft-related assignments including, but not limited to, the re-codification of Wyoming's watercraft statutes, training of contract watercraft enforcement officers and providing the public information on cold water hazards. Additionally, he has coordinated training for department enforcement personnel on the use of personal watercraft for enforcement. Choma also assists in maintaining statewide buoy inventories.

In addition to Choma's watercraft law enforcement efforts, he is the region's watercraft enforcement coordinator. His responsibilities in this position require the training and supervision of contract reservoir crew employees. He also oversees and coordinates regional and statewide task forces relating to fishing and watercraft law enforcement. Choma's ability to work with his peers in an organized and professional fashion facilitates these projects being carried out successfully.

# NORTHERN region



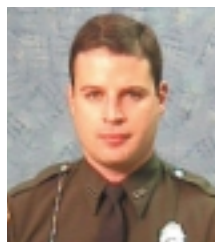
Agent  
**Gregory L. Rhodes**  
Department of Natural  
Resources &  
Environmental Control  
**Delaware**

Agent Gregg Rhodes loves the boating community and marine work, and his educational work reflects this.

Rhodes has shown a dedication to the marine community for many years. Rhodes is a member of the State Water Rescue Team and has volunteered to coordinate the Water Rescue Program in Sussex County. As Sussex County Water Rescue Team Leader, he coordinates other instructors, works with volunteer firefighters, and oversees water safety procedures during dangerous training sessions.

Rhodes has taught numerous boating education classes and legal requirements with the U.S. Coast Guard and United States Power Squadrons. U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary members have called to compliment Rhodes on a job well done.

Rhodes has taken the initiative to make communication with the boating education organizations one-on-one. Rhodes has participated in district conferences representing the state of Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife Enforcement as the division liaison reviewing policy and legislative changes for boating education. Rhodes volunteers to deliver boating education literature to boating volunteers. Many times this deed has assisted the volunteer in getting the job done.



Conservation Officer  
**John Gano**  
Department of Natural  
Resources  
**Indiana**

Along with his various fish and wildlife enforcement duties, Conservation Officer Gano is a vital and integral component of boating safety and enforcement on two large, heavily used reservoirs and a major river running through the heart of Central Indiana.

Gano has been directly responsible for numerous boating violation citations, certifying hundreds of students in boater education classes, establishing positive working relationships with outside agencies, maintaining a positive relationship with local media, and responding to

the boating needs and concerns of the residents of east central Indiana.

One of Gano's greatest accomplishments is in the area of boating safety education. In 2000, he organized and taught 20 boater education classes, certifying 431 students. In addition to the classes that Gano administered and instructed, he also established a positive working relationship with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and local Parks Department to provide the public with yet another avenue of boater education instruction.

Besides his dedication to boating enforcement and education, Gano strives to foster a positive working relationship and atmosphere between the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement division, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, and local police and fire departments. This is well-illustrated by his willingness to assist other agencies with boater education programs and safety fairs, conduct free, joint boat safety inspections with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, provide instruction to local police agencies on proper boating law enforcement practices, and establish partnerships with local fire departments in an effort to provide quicker emergency medical response on increasingly crowded reservoirs.

Officer Gano has brought tremendous credit to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division and himself through his work in boater education and boating enforcement. Gano has undeniably increased public awareness in the area of boating and boating education. He has fostered interagency relationships that serve to improve all the organizations involved, ultimately providing better overall service to the public.



Conservation Officer  
**Steve Schutte**  
Department of Natural  
Resources  
**Iowa**

Conservation Officer Steve Schutte has been with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources since 1972. He has served as a conservation officer since 1983 and is assigned to Cerro Gordo County – home to Clear Lake, one of Iowa's premier vacation and boating destinations.

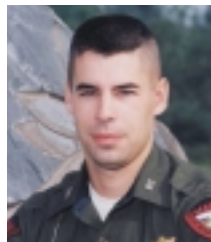
Schutte was one of Iowa's first officers to attend the National Safe Boating Instructors course at the U.S. Coast Guard Training Center in Yorktown, Va. He put this training to use almost immediately when investigating a boating accident in which he successfully calculated the

boat's minimum speed. Since then Schutte has investigated a number of boating accidents at Clear Lake – many of which have involved fatalities and high-profile cases. He is a meticulous and effective investigator.

Playing a key role as a primary instructor with Iowa's Swiftwater and Ice Rescue Training Team, Schutte has spent countless hours preparing for classes, repairing equipment and working closely with officers and members of fire departments and various search and rescue organizations.

Officer Schutte routinely teaches boating and water safety classes in his community. He has also developed an abbreviated boating and water safety program that he includes in all of the hunter safety education classes he teaches as well. Schutte has also presented programs on boat theft at the North Central Region Chapter annual conference of the International Auto Theft Investigators Association.

Schutte is Iowa's lead boating and water safety instructor for the department's conservation officer training academy which includes a 40-hour block dedicated to boat handling skill development.



Warden  
**Terry Hughes**  
Department of Inland  
Fisheries & Wildlife  
**Maine**

Warden Terrence Hughes Jr. is a seven-year veteran of the Maine Warden Service who has excelled in many areas but especially in the areas of boating law enforcement and boating safety.

Hughes has worked with officials in his hometown of Oakland, Maine, helping them institute a boat patrol through their local police department. This patrol works primarily on Messalonskee Lake, which is a large and very busy boating lake. With the large area that Warden Hughes has to patrol on a daily basis, he has found the local boat patrol to be helpful in keeping that lake safe in his absence.

Hughes attended the U.S. Coast Guard National Boating Safety and Maritime Law Enforcement School at Yorktown, Va., in 2000, the Federal Small Boat Operator's School in Glen Cove, Ga., and the Public Service Boat Operator's School in Maine.

Hughes is the captain of the Maine Warden Service dive boat and is a diver for the Maine Warden Service Search and Recovery Dive Team. His duties in this position are responsibility for the maintenance and overall care for the dive boat, operation of the dive boat on missions



# NORTHERN region

throughout the state under occasionally very demanding conditions, and recovery diving on a statewide basis.

Hughes is the type of officer who takes added responsibilities very seriously and always goes beyond what is expected of him. Terry is extremely dependable, a pleasure to work with, and the epitome of professionalism.



Conservation Officer  
**Jason Smith**  
Department of Natural  
Resources  
**Michigan**

Conservation Officer Jason Smith spends a great deal of time and effort in the protection of Michigan's natural resources and in the enforcement of marine regulations, commercial fishing regulations and the Coastal Zone Management.

Smith has been assigned to Sanilac County since he began his commission with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources in August 1998. Sanilac County is bordered by Lake Huron with two large harbors. Both harbors are home to numerous registered boaters and charter boats.

On Sept. 4, 1999, Officer Smith was contacted about people removing artifacts from a shipwreck. Smith responded to the location within 25 minutes of the call and arrested three suspects. At the conclusion of the resulting trial, all three suspects were convicted and received a sentence of 12 months probation with fines of \$250 and restitution of \$2500.

Smith pilots one of the largest patrol vessels in his district and offers training to fellow officers in navigating the big waters – especially to all newly hired officers.

Education is very important to Officer Smith. Sanilac County has a shoreline of 36 miles, and several youth camps are located along this shoreline. Smith stops at all the camps throughout the summer to speak with hundreds of children. He also visits schools and attends Power Squadrons boating classes to talk with students about boating safety. Smith has worked with several Boy Scout groups on earning their merit badges.

Officer Smith has been involved in several search and rescue missions. In June 2000 he located three vessels that reported being lost in heavy fog and unable to find the harbor. Smith helped each boat return to the safety of the harbor.



Conservation Officer  
**Joel Heyn**  
Department of Natural  
Resources  
**Minnesota**

Most evenings, weekends and holidays, Conservation Officer Joel Heyn of Hastings is hard at work ensuring a safe and enjoyable experience for boaters plying the St. Croix and Mississippi rivers.

Heyn, a four-year employee of the DNR, was chosen as the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' 2001 Boat and Water Conservation Officer of the Year because of his willingness to assist any officer with boat and water enforcement and education, regardless of agency, as well as his ability to see issues from the public's perspective, according to Lt. Cathy Hamm, the DNR Enforcement district supervisor in Heyn's district.

"He effectively coordinated boat safety and education efforts with three county sheriff's departments, the Minnesota and Wisconsin DNRs, the National Park Service and others," Hamm said. "Officer Heyn also puts forth the extra effort to ensure the needs of the public are addressed in a friendly, timely and professional manner. He's most deserving of this award."

Peaceful days are sometimes interrupted by the roar of an illegal exhaust system contained in a boat muscling its way along a waterway. Noise enforcement has become a top concern for those living along or enjoying the St. Croix River. Heyn works extra hours during summer months to help combat this problem as well as drug and alcohol issues along the popular river.

Heyn has also written more excessive noise citations in the past two years than all Minnesota conservation officers combined for the same period. He shares what he has learned with other officers and agencies. He's videotaped numerous boats with exhaust cutout systems and worked with the former Boundary Water Area Commission to produce a tape that is available to train other officers and agencies on what to look for.

Heyn puts forth extra effort in promoting the wearing of life jackets to both youth and adults. He also participated in a DNR-produced video promoting personal watercraft safety. In addition, he promotes boating safety awareness at events in the area and performs numerous media interviews on boating safety.



Boating Safety Officer  
**Daryl Teter**  
Game and Parks  
Commission  
**Nebraska**

In 2001, Nebraska experienced a boating-related fatality-free year for the first time in recorded history. Boating Safety Officer Daryl Teter spent the past year contributing greatly to this effort.

Teter's responsibilities include day-to-day enforcement of boating laws, providing officer training, certifying boating safety instructors, providing outreach programs to schools, the public and various organizations, and teaching boating safety classes.

In 2001 Teter created a boating under the influence enforcement training program. For this, he created a PowerPoint presentation, wrote the training curriculum, and presented the training to each of the state's six law enforcement districts. Teter is also a certified trainer in firearms and defensive tactics and is occasionally called upon for assistance with training at the Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center.

Officer Teter has certified the majority of the 250+ corps of volunteer boating safety instructors across the state. He also conducts boating safety classes and has certified many students in boating basics. Teter conducts several boating safety programs in local schools. In 2001, he contacted more than 300 schools in Nebraska to encourage officials to implement Nebraska Boating Basics as part of the curriculum. Several schools have boating safety as part of their regular academic programs.

Teter is in constant contact with local boat dealers and supplies them with various agency boating safety handouts. He spearheaded an effort for safe boats used in Nebraska Walleye Association fishing tournaments. As a result, the Walleye Association requested officers to perform vessel safety checks before their tournaments. This

exposure resulted in a unique inroad for boating safety exposure among anglers. Teter was instrumental in creating a canoe safety segment at the local Ducks Unlimited Green Wing safety day.

# NORTHERN region



State Trooper  
**Joe DeMarino**  
State Police  
New Jersey

The events of Sept. 11, 2001, surrounding the World Trade Center disaster will forever be remembered for their horrific impact upon our country. This is certainly true for those who helped with the rescue effort on that day.

As the first tower of the World Trade Center became engulfed in flames, New Jersey State Trooper Joe DeMarino along with State Trooper Clark Motley and State Trooper Andrew Koopaletes quickly boarded a 40-foot state police vessel docked across the Newark Bay and headed for the North Cove, adjacent to the World Trade Center complex. The second tower was struck as they were crossing the bay.

When the first tower collapsed, the troopers were unable to access the North cove because of the debris and lack of visibility, so they managed to maneuver their vessel alongside the river bulkhead just south of the cove. There, they were able to evacuate numerous wounded and take them across the river to waiting ambulances in Jersey City.

After evacuating their first group of wounded, they headed back to the cove. Once there they again began to take on wounded along the river bulkhead. Because of the railing along the bulkhead, they were unable to take on the seriously injured. Without hesitation, they entered the cove and moored at the marina and were able to take on the more seriously injured victims.

While they were in the cove, the second tower collapsed. As their vessel became engulfed in concrete ash, debris and dust, they quickly cut their dock lines and blindly navigated out of the cove with their seriously injured passengers secured to the vessel. Again they made their way to Jersey City where the wounded received medical attention.

During the course of the day and into the night, numerous trips were made and hundreds of wounded were safely evacuated.



Watercraft Officer  
**Matthew J. Zlocki**  
Department of Natural  
Resources  
Ohio

Always optimistic and positive, Ohio Watercraft Officer Matt Zlocki believes in helping others and routinely assists all members of the office with their projects and assignments.

With 12 years experience in the Watercraft Division, and another 16 years in law enforcement, Zlocki is knowledgeable and professional.

He oversees and runs the largest remote office in the state, which entails many facets and requires lots of attention. In addition to this responsibility, Zlocki also accomplishes much enforcement and education work.

In 2001, Officer Zlocki performed more than 323 inspections, conducted 350 spot checks, patrolled more than 400 hours and performed 43 ramp inspection hours. In addition, he has trained his partner – a new officer – for the last two years, letting him write most of the citations as part of the learning process. He has also assisted in training the Game Protectors and Marine Patrolmen in the area.

Zlocki leads northeast Ohio watercraft officers in the number of boating education courses taught and hours of instruction provided. He organizes and coordinates all the educational activities for a three-county area. He was instrumental in assisting the Spirit of America Foundation in developing its sailing and safety program for local schools.

Zlocki represents his agency very well and is well respected in the boating community and among his peers. He is very customer-driven and enjoys interacting with people. He listens to customers and strives to fulfill his obligations to them. This officer routinely donates time to the division without compensation. He is self-motivated and looks for ways to help the organization, the people he works with and the boating public.



Officer  
**Scott Christman**  
Fish & Boat Commission  
Pennsylvania

Known as the "region workhorse," Officer Scott Christman exhibits the qualities of a dedicated and effective enforcement officer and has attained the appreciation and gratitude of his peers and others in the enforcement community.

A waterways conservation officer since 1997, Christman is a great team player and an example to his fellow officers. He is always ready to help whenever and wherever he can. His advice is sought out and he is always willing to share his views and experiences. He willingly serves as mentor to other officers, especially new field officers.

Officer Christman broke new ground in prosecuting a juvenile BUI case. He was able to guide the case from the field and through the justice system, achieving an appropriate disposition.

Christman is credited with developing his deputy force into professional, informed officers who understand and comply with agency policy and standard operating procedures.

In a demanding investigation of Pine Creek, Christman discovered that the apparent chronic pollution was caused by almost a yearlong illegal discharge of egg processing plant effluent. His efforts served as a catalyst to get all appropriate agencies and responsible parties working together to solve the problem.

In October 2000, Christman was contacted regarding two burglary suspects who were on foot in the woods near a river in his district. Because of his quick response and willingness to assist in the incident, Christman was able to help keep the suspects confined to the woods.



Officer  
**Edward Cabral**  
Department of  
Environmental  
Management  
Rhode Island

A patient, reasonable and dedicated officer, Environmental Police Officer Edward Cabral is a regular presence in Rhode Island's Marine East region. He is often seen interacting with the public while checking boaters and teaching numerous boating safety courses. He patrols his area diligently making contact with numerous



# NORTHERN region

people while promoting boating safety and protecting the state's waters.

Cabral has extensive training and boating experience generating from his 18 years of service with the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management. The area in which Officer Cabral has excelled is boating education. He has been instrumental in coordinating and implementing a boating safety training program for several municipal agencies during the year. One agency consisted of 120 firefighters and had to be coordinated on many dates over a long period. Cabral took on the task and completed it successfully. Coordinating and teaching the courses is in addition to his regular patrol functions and sometimes takes place during his personal time.

Cabral was instrumental in developing a PowerPoint presentation showing the history, structure and responsibilities of the state environmental police officer. This program is used in many public presentations and reflects well on Cabral's division.

One of the few officers committed to making sure his division's patrol fleet is up-to-date and safe, he checks the vessels on a regular basis. He ensures that the patrol boats are clean and that any repair work is taken care of.

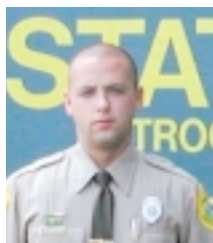


Conservation Officer  
**David Bartling**  
Department of Game,  
Fish & Parks  
**South Dakota**

A 22-year veteran of the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks, Conservation Officer David Bartling has many responsibilities, including boating safety. He handles these all in a professional and competent manner.

Bartling has put his bachelor's degree in Park Management from South Dakota State University to good use. Officer Bartling has cultivated a good working relationship with the lake association at Lake Cochrane, one of the busiest recreational boating lakes in the region. He also contributes a weekly boating safety column in the local newspaper and is involved in all aspects of his community, making him one of the best-known and well-liked officers in the region.

Bartling's regional supervisor described this conservation officer's safety and enforcement efforts on the many busy lakes in his district as "consistent, fair and effective."



Auxiliary Trooper  
**Gordon LaFountain**  
State Police  
**Vermont**

Gordon LaFountain has been an auxiliary state trooper in Vermont since June 2000. He is most often assigned to Lake Champlain, the sixth largest freshwater lake in the country.

In just two years, LaFountain has already established himself as one of the leaders of the boating safety effort.

During his first year and a half with the program, LaFountain accomplished nearly 1,000 hours of boating safety patrols, issued 55 uniform traffic tickets and 147 written warnings, conducted 920 vessel inspections, and participated in 34 search and rescue missions.

In December 2000, LaFountain was awarded the department's Life Saving Award for his actions on Lake Champlain earlier in the year.

On Aug. 3, 2000, Auxiliary Trooper LaFountain along with Auxiliary Trooper Kamerling encountered a powerful storm involving high winds and heavy rain while on patrol. Due to low visibility, they had to depend on the boat's instruments for navigation. They heard a "mayday" call from a vessel from a boater who said his boat was struck.

By listening to the radio transmissions between the Coast Guard Station and the vessel in distress, the officers determined the vessel's general location. As they headed in the direction of the vessel, they encountered a male and a female in the water. Neither person was wearing a life jacket, but they were sharing a Type IV float cushion.

The officers threw a line to the weakened boaters and pulled them both aboard the patrol boat. The boaters explained that they had been on a sailboat with some friends. When the storm came up, they had been unable to maneuver the boat and the boat tipped at such an angle that they fell into the water. Their friends were unable to rescue them. Shortly after being rescued by the officers, the boaters spotted the boat from which they had fallen. LaFountain and Kamerling towed the vessel into Burlington Harbor and the storm passed. The officers transferred the boaters to the sailboat safely.



Conservation Warden  
**Jeremy Plautz**  
Department of Natural  
Resources  
**Wisconsin**

Despite having an extremely busy station assignment, Conservation Warden Jeremy Plautz manages to devote a great deal of effort toward promoting safe and responsible boating.

In 2001, Plautz was involved in a number of boating-related activities, including a comprehensive audit of all the boats in the Kenosha Harbor on Lake Michigan.

The Kenosha Harbor is home to a large number of resident and transient boaters. State law requires all boats in Wisconsin to display registration. It was apparent that a great deal of boaters were failing to comply.

Plautz created a proactive, community wardening-based project to address the situation. He enlisted the support of several community partners to document the presence of suspect boats.

Upon initial inspection of the harbor, Plautz discovered 144 boats in noncompliance with the law. In late winter, he sent letters to all slip holders advising them of the upcoming audit and explaining the importance and legal requirements of boat registration. The following spring, Plautz hand-delivered information packets to all moored boats. He also posted information about the audit at the marina entrance and visited local fishing charter clubs.

During the summer, Plautz worked with the Kenosha County Sheriff's Department Water Patrol, the U.S. Coast Guard and other conservation wardens, along with several other partners, to document the presence of all boats in the harbor suspected of noncompliance.

Plautz was able to bring approximately 100 boats into compliance without enforcement action. His information campaign convinced boaters to register their boats voluntarily. Forty-three citations were issued for noncompliance.

Along with his various duties as a conservation warden, Plautz has been involved in numerous other boating-related activities, including

- Creating a comprehensive PowerPoint presentation for wardens to use in boating safety classes;
- Promoting the agency's boating safety program by helping develop classes in cooperation with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary;
- Participating in a training scenario on Lake Michigan involving a simulated plane crash;
- Maintaining a strong enforcement program; and
- Serving as a member of the Law Enforcement Training Committee and acting as a field training officer.

# SOUTHERN region



Lieutenant  
**Alex Smith**  
Department of  
Conservation & Natural  
Resources  
**Alabama**

Lt. Alex Smith joined the Marine Police Division of the Alabama Department of Conservation & Natural Resources in May 1991. Eight years later he was promoted to lieutenant and given the responsibility of heading up the Boat Theft Unit for the southern half of the state.

Due to Lt. Smith's dogged determination and keen investigative skills, the numbers of arrests made and cases closed on boat thefts in his region have risen dramatically. In 2001, Lt. Smith made 18 felony arrests and closed 64 boat theft cases, resulting in the recovery of many thousands of dollars worth of equipment.

Lt. Smith devised a boat theft course for other law enforcement agencies to use. This course teaches officers the peculiarities associated with working a boat theft.

Because of his efforts, officers in the southern part of the state are more aware of what to do when they happen upon a suspicious boat. In fact, a police officer from Orange Beach, Alabama, who had been through Lt. Smith's course discovered a stolen boat at a residence. This discovery resulted in the locating of two more stolen boats and the unearthing of an insurance fraud scheme involving stolen boats and equipment. The recovery total on this case alone was \$150,000.



Corporal  
**Tod Johnson**  
Game & Fish  
Commission  
**Arkansas**

Corporal Johnson has been a member of the Enforcement Division of the Arkansas Game & Fish Commission since 1987 and has worked boating enforcement extensively in his district. He routinely patrols 11 lakes and six rivers in the Hot Springs area.

In addition to regular enforcement responsibilities, Corporal Johnson spent considerable time in 2001 educating boaters, investigating boating accidents, removing intoxicated boaters from waterways, assisting in homeland security measures, spotting boating violations from an aircraft and

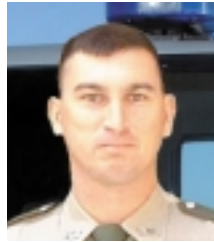
coordinating patrol boat efforts, and appearing in court to give testimony on boating-related cases among other boating-related activities.

Johnson implemented a statewide program to promote youth awareness about personal flotation devices and related regulations. Corporal Johnson solicited assistance from area businesses. With the Keep Our Kids Safe program, boating enforcement officers rewarded those children age 12 and under for wearing their life jackets.

Johnson also instructed 11 boating education courses, certifying 792 boaters, worked with local marine dealers in educating first-time boater owners about boating safety and regulations, and appeared on a statewide news program to promote boating safety awareness.

Corporal Johnson worked with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary to create a joint boating education teaching opportunity and set up cooperative classes for area boaters. This effort allows officers to deal effectively with the increased demand for boating classes mandated by recent legislation.

Following the events of Sept. 11, 2001, Johnson assisted the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with security at Blakely Mountain Dam. Due to its major contribution to power companies in several states, Blakely officials suspected Blakely Mountain Dam could be a priority target for terrorist attacks.



Officer  
**Michael R. Andriano**  
Fish & Wildlife  
Conservation  
Commission  
**Florida**

Officer Michael Andriano exhibits an unequalled sense of enthusiasm that has made him one of the most effective officers in the state. In the performance of his daily responsibilities, Andriano has developed an uncanny ability to discover and apprehend violators.

In 2001, Andriano was involved in the investigation and apprehension of numerous individuals, resulting in the issuance of 329 citations and 228 warnings. The number of arrests was quite impressive, with a conviction rate of 100 percent. The outstanding conviction rate is a reflection of his investigative skills and attention to detail while observing and interviewing suspects. These skills have been noted by the judicial system and Andriano has benefited by the great amount of respect he receives from judicial officials.

Officer Andriano is also responsible for patrolling the numerous manatee and panther zones. He has conducted 40 speed enforcement details for protection of the Florida Panther and 48 manatee zone enforcement details on the

Caloosahatchee River and surrounding zones in Lee County. These enforcement details resulted in the issuance of 100 citations and 22 warnings for unlawful speeds in the panther zone and 23 citations and 22 warnings for manatee zone violations. Andriano has made numerous arrests for narcotics violations, littering violations, driving and boating under the influence, and felony trespassing cases.

In his senior year at Florida Gulf Coast University, Andriano is pursuing a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice. Along with this, he has taken a multitude of law enforcement classes for self-improvement to better enhance his abilities to perform his duties as a state law enforcement officer.



Ranger First Class  
**Chad Chambers**  
Department of Natural  
Resources  
**Georgia**

Ranger First Class Chambers has been assigned to Pickens County as a Boating Safety Officer in Northwest Georgia since beginning his career in January 2000.

His primary patrol area is Lake Allatoona, a 12,000-acre U.S. Army Corps of Engineers impoundment just north of metro Atlanta, which has ranked in the top 10 most visited Corps of Engineers impoundments in each of the last five years.

In just his first full year as a Boating Safety Officer, RFC Chambers' accomplishments exemplify professional marine law enforcement. RFC Chambers devoted 893 hours to boating safety patrol and education programs. He performed 736 vessel inspections that resulted in 213 boating safety violations. He also excelled in his enforcement of boating under the influence (BUI) laws that resulted in 26 of the total 68 BUI arrests made on Lake Allatoona. This was the third consecutive year that Lake Allatoona led all other state waterways in number of BUI arrests. RFC Chamber's efforts as a boating safety officer were evidenced by the reduced number of accidents on Lake Allatoona, from 23 in 2000 to 13 in 2001. Chambers investigated four of the boating accidents, and conducted one search and rescue detail during the past year.

RFC Chambers also excelled in his public education efforts over the past year. He presented six boating safety programs, wrote two boating safety newspaper articles and made one television appearance on a metro Atlanta station covering recreational boating safety issues.



# SOUTHERN region



Officer  
**Jan Oakes**  
Department of Fish &  
Wildlife Resources  
**Kentucky**

Wildlife and Boating Officer Jan Oakes is the senior-most boating law enforcement officer in Kentucky. Since March 1972, Oakes has worked for five different agencies as the Boating Enforcement Division has progressed over the years.

Oakes began his career searching for two of his own classmates during training. A flood had hit the Kentucky River, and all available help was called to assist in searches. While searching for two young boys in a canoe, two of Oakes' classmates drowned. This reality check set the tone for the next 30 years of service for Jan Oakes.

During his career, Officer Oakes has worked more than 30 fatalities and over 70 major boating accidents. Since there were no water rescue teams to respond in the early years of his career, in each case Oakes worked, he helped develop the rescue procedures in effect today.

Late one winter, Oakes received a call that two waterfowl hunters had overturned and were hung in floodwaters. Hypothermia was setting in when Oakes reached the scene, but he was able to get his boat across the flooded river and rescue both hunters. On the return trip across the raging river, a wire fence pulled the plug out of the boat. Oakes kept going and got the hunters to shore safely. In answer to the situation, Oakes responded that there was no one else available to rescue the hunters so he knew he had to get the job done.



Corporal  
**Eric Ritter**  
Department of Natural  
Resources  
**Maryland**

Corporal Ritter is responsible for the large patrol boat station in Havre de Grace, Maryland. Despite serving without a mate during calendar year 2001, Corporal Ritter led his district by investigating 145 documented incidents, including 15 boat accidents, one of which involved damage to 17 different boats at Charlestown Marina on the North East River. During this period, Corporal Ritter also investigated 16 marine-related thefts.

Understanding the need to provide a safe environment for recreational boaters, their

families and guests, Corporal Ritter issued 109 citations and warnings in 2001 for boating safety equipment and operation violations. Of those violations, six involved the operation of a vessel while intoxicated.

With a reputation among his peers as thoroughly versed about Maryland's boating laws, Corporal Ritter is frequently consulted by his co-workers regarding proper application of those laws and regulations.



Corporal  
**Marion Pearson**  
Department of Wildlife,  
Fisheries & Parks  
**Mississippi**

Corporal Marion Pearson has served as a conservation officer for the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks since 1996. Stationed in Panola County, enforcement of federal and state boating regulations on Sardis Lake occupies most of his time during peak boating season.

During the 2001 boating season, Pearson checked approximately 800 boats. He investigated four boating accidents and assisted with the recovery of two drowning victims. Pearson wrote 135 citations, resulting in six custodial arrests.

Teaching boating education and enforcing boating laws are top priorities for Pearson. Believing education is the key to maintaining the future of safe boating, Pearson teaches multiple boating education classes each year and gives numerous education seminars each summer.

Pearson's dedication and devotion have earned him the respect of his peers. His fellow officers chose Pearson as District 2 Boating Officer of the Year in 1998 and 1999, Statewide Conservation Officer of the Year in 2000, and Statewide Boating Officer in 2001.

Corporal Pearson finds the most rewarding part of his job is being instrumental in saving lives.

In one incident, Pearson observed a minor operating a personal watercraft while wearing an oversized adult life jacket. As he turned to approach the craft, the child fell off the back of the vessel, causing the ski vest to ride up over his head. This pinned both the child's arms together overhead while the child's weight kept his head underwater. Pearson was able to go immediately to the child's aid and save him from inevitable drowning.

In another incident, Pearson spotted a father and son on a capsized personal watercraft. Both individuals were wearing life jackets. However, the father panicked and began to climb up on his son's back, pushing the son's head underwater. Pearson was able to maneuver in close enough for the father to grab the patrol boat, thus releasing his son so he could pull him to the safety of the boat.



Corporal  
**Nicholas Humphrey**  
State Water Patrol  
**Missouri**

Corporal Nick Humphrey joined the Missouri State Water Patrol in October 1995. He was assigned to Mark Twain Lake in northeast Missouri. In 1999, Humphrey was promoted to his present rank and transferred to Lake of the Ozarks in central Missouri, which is the location of the majority of boating traffic in the state.

Corporal Humphrey had an eventful 2001. As a certified sobriety checkpoint supervisor, he planned and supervised numerous sobriety checkpoints on the lake. He investigated over 100 complaint calls in his assigned area and led the state in felony drug and BWI arrests. Corporal Humphrey was awarded by Mothers Against Drunk Drivers with their BWI Enforcement Officer of the Year Award in both 2000 and 2001.

Humphrey was a successful Field Training Officer and supervised the Missouri State Water Patrol internship program at Lake of the Ozarks. As a Breathalyzer instructor and instructor at the Water Patrol Academy, Corporal Humphrey provides training to other officers. As a member of the Lake Area Major Case Squad, he participates in investigations of major crimes by working in cooperation with other law enforcement agencies.

As a member of the Water Patrol's Safety Education Committee, Corporal Humphrey participated in the creation and development of a new safety program. Corporal Humphrey set up adult safety programs in his district during the past two boating seasons. In response to escalating drug violations and date rape reports on the lake, Corporal Humphrey researched and developed a presentation on date rape drugs and their effects.

Humphrey has a bachelor's degree in Education from the University of Missouri-Columbia and is nearing completion of a master's degree in Criminal Justice from Central Missouri State University.

# SOUTHERN region



Master Officer  
**Fred Hampton**  
Wildlife Resources  
Commission  
North Carolina

Master Officer Fred Hampton has been working for the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Division of Enforcement for six years. Stationed in Currituck County on the eastern shore of the state, his entire work area is surrounded by water and he spends most of his time on the water.

Hampton's knowledge of the waters has earned him the respect of his fellow officers and the boating public. He has been called out day and night to investigate boating accidents, rescue lost or disabled boaters and to apprehend operators who were boating under the influence. In the summer, he patrols the waters to enforce boating laws, while in the winter, he continues to work boating in conjunction with enforcing waterfowl hunt regulations. In 2001, he logged more than 1,000 hours of patrolling the waters working boating, hunting and fishing.

Officer Hampton has excellent rapport in communicating with the young and old alike. He actively contacts local schools, 4-H clubs and other organizations to schedule, advertise and teach boating safety courses. He knows and understands local, state and federal boating laws and can easily and effectively explain these laws to the boating public. He gave 31 programs to the public in 2001.

After the Sept. 11 terrorist attack in New York City, Officer Hampton was called to active duty with the Coast Guard Reserves. He patrolled the harbors around New York City for six weeks. On Jan. 14, he was activated again and was deployed to Cuba to patrol the waters around Guantanamo Bay. At the time of this writing, he was still serving our country as a Coast Guard Reservist in Cuba.



Trooper  
**Kurt McKean**  
Highway Patrol  
Oklahoma

Trooper Kurt McKean doesn't consider himself a hero, but the woman whose life he helped save does.

McKean, an Oklahoma Highway Patrol officer, along with his partner Tony Nelson were credited with saving Tamara Carpenter's life at Lake Thunderbird in central Oklahoma on May 26, 2001.

McKean earned the Southern States Boating Law Administrators Association Officer of the Year award for Oklahoma and Nelson the Oklahoma State Trooper of the Year award for their efforts.

"People have come up to me a lot and told me I'm a hero," McKean said, "but I look at it as just doing my job. I did exactly what the taxpayers of Oklahoma pay me to do."

McKean and Nelson were on patrol at Lake Thunderbird when they received the call that Carpenter had been struck by an engine propeller.

"Right then we knew it was bad news," McKean said. "Anytime you get a call like that, everything just stops. It's full blast. Propellers do the most unspeakable amount of damage to the human body."

Upon arrival, McKean found the young female pinned under the stern of a boat in the water and stuck on the boat ramp.

Carpenter had jumped into the water to help push the vessel which had become stuck on the ramp. One of the spinning propeller blades became lodged in her right thigh near the femoral artery, forcing the engine to stall. She was bleeding profusely, had severe lacerations to other parts of her body and was fighting to keep her head above water.

The local ambulance service was en route but was still 30-45 minutes away. That meant McKean and his partner had to do everything they could to keep the woman alive.

Acting quickly, McKean located a boat strap and used it as a tourniquet on the severely damaged leg. "I told Tony, 'For God's sake whatever they (emergency crews) do,'" recalled McKean, "don't let them remove that prop from her leg because if they do she's going to bleed out on us or have a heart attack."

The two officers did what they could to keep the woman calm. The water temperature helped because it was still relatively cold.

The waves from other boaters and passersby got so bad McKean issued an ultimatum to the drivers to either help or receive a citation. "The

waves were bouncing her off the bottom and she was going in and out of consciousness, so we improvised and formed a human barricade around her," he said.

McKean retrieved tools from a nearby vehicle and removed the prop from the boat. The officers then helped load the woman and the prop into the ambulance.

The ambulance rushed Carpenter to Norman Regional Hospital where doctors spent eight hours removing the prop from her right leg and repairing her right calf muscle that was almost completely detached. She also suffered a broken right kneecap and femur. Carpenter underwent four more hours of surgery the next day and has undergone 17 surgeries to date.

The doctor who treated Carpenter wrote a letter to the department stating if McKean and his partner had not made the decision to leave the propeller in the leg, Carpenter probably would have died.

"A lot of guys lose sight of the fact that in law enforcement our No. 1 goal is to help people," McKean said. "Putting bad guys in jail is only part of my job and when I have to do it, I won't hesitate. But, my goal is to take a proactive approach to prevent someone from making a bad decision. I'd much rather save a life, or help in an emergency situation to benefit somebody's family and the victim."



Wildlife/Boating Officer  
**Clint Smith**  
Wildlife Resources  
Agency  
Tennessee



Wildlife/Boating Officer  
**Wayne Sanders**  
Wildlife Resources  
Agency  
Tennessee

Wildlife/Boating Officers Wayne Sanders and Clint Smith worked together to develop the Tim's Ford Boating Event, a safety education event created in response to a tragic accident on the lake two years ago involving local teens, ensured their selection. Their tireless efforts earned them national recognition through the National Safe Boating Council's Boating Education Advancement Award as well as an award of merit from the National Water Safety Congress.

Tims Ford Lake, located in southern middle Tennessee, had the most boating accidents in the



# SOUTHERN region

state in 1999. A very high profile fatal accident involving two seniors on "Senior Skip Day," plus the many other boating-related incidents, shook the citizens of the community surrounding the lake. Sanders and Smith brought together residents and businesses in and around Tims Ford Lake and Winchester, Tenn., to plan a boating safety campaign throughout the spring of 2001.

With the support of virtually the entire county, Sanders and Smith made great things happen. The Franklin County school system participated in a boating safety art contest with categories for grades K-12. Local banks donated cash bonds to winners. On "Senior Skip Day," when the last thing high school seniors want to do is to be in school, Sanders and Smith, with the help of other officers, spent the day with approximately 230 seniors teaching boating safety through various fun and educational activities.

The largest event occurred on May 12 – the Tims Ford Boating Event. Winchester City Park on the banks of the lake was the location for a full day of boating safety. With 19 boating-related accidents that resulted in four fatalities, Tims Ford outnumbered the Ocoee whitewater for boating accidents, which is highly unusual. Each type of accident was addressed at the Tims Ford Boating Event. In addition, the American Water Ski association taught people how to water ski and discussed safety measures for towing. The Decherd Fire Department performed carbon monoxide checks on a houseboat and the ski boats. There were boating under the influence

activities, t-shirt coloring, medical safety and life jacket demonstrations. This event marked the first time any officer of the TWRA had taken on a boating safety event of this magnitude. Because of this huge community effort, more than 1,900 people in the Franklin County area were formally taught the Tennessee boating safety course.



Game Warden  
**William Jones**  
Parks & Wildlife  
Department  
Texas

Game Warden William Jones exhibits dedication and professionalism beyond the norm in his efforts to make Texas waters safe for the boating public. Not only is he an exceptional enforcement officer, but as a boater education instructor he has generated many outreach programs pertaining to water safety education and awareness.

His leadership and excellent communication skills enable him to teach water safety law in such a manner that it is understood. He instructs his peers in a manner that encourages them to excel with self-assurance and confidence. He demonstrates the ability to influence other agency enforcement officers to overcome any

uncertainties in water safety enforcement and promotes a strong sense of teamwork.

Jones's greatest achievement is boating while intoxicated enforcement. He has spent many hours researching and developing innovative ideas that have become instrumental in creating new policies and procedures for apprehending BWI violators. He has proposed improvements in the BWI field sobriety, detection and arrest packets that have resulted in decreased interview and arrest process time. Jones helped set up one of the first BWI Task Force operations. These successes have grown to make his assigned enforcement area one of the best in BWI enforcement programs in the state.

Warden Jones is able to think logically so that situations do not escalate. In one particular incident, a Brazos River Authority officer and a game warden had arrested two subjects and were taking them to a vehicle to be transported to the county jail. While traveling down the lake at a high rate of speed, one of the violators jumped out of the patrol boat and refused to get back in without a fight. The two officers radioed their location to Jones and requested his assistance. Jones arrived about the same time as the violator removed his life jacket and began swimming toward the bank. Jones removed his duty belt and entered the water. He was able to subdue the violator and maneuver him to the patrol boat. Jones's quick thinking and heroic actions ensured that the incident did not have a tragic ending.

# WESTERN region



Deputy  
**Patrick Fergus**  
Orange County Sheriff's  
Department  
California

Deputy Pat Fergus has over 30 years dedicated tenure with the Orange County Sheriff's Harbor Patrol Unit. His knowledge of harbor operations is unsurpassed.

Fergus has consistently trained numerous newly assigned deputies and continues to track, organize and schedule all training for the Harbor Patrol. Much of the training he provides is self-initiated. Deputy Fergus is a true professional, and he instills this professionalism in his trainees.

Deputy Fergus received several commendations this year, one of which was from the Orange County District Attorney's Office for his work in a Boating Under the Influence case. The Deputy

District Attorney noted, "Deputy Fergus went the proverbial 'extra-mile' when he researched dispatch records to identify and locate a witness necessary to overcome a motion brought by the defense." Deputy Fergus is to be commended for all his hard work and the example he has set at the Harbor Patrol Division.

One of Fergus's greatest accomplishments is the Marine Fire Fighting Academy. He wrote the course and serves as lead instructor. Students from many regions of the state attend this course which is Peace Officer Standard Training (P.O.S.T.) certified. He has obtained a revered reputation throughout the state and is a respected member of the Orange County Sheriff's Harbor Patrol Unit.



Game Warden  
**Doug Nielsen**  
Division of Wildlife  
Nevada

Doug Nielsen has always possessed a strong work ethic and a dedication to his position as a game warden for the Nevada Division of Wildlife. This is especially true as he serves as the Southern Region's Boating Safety Education coordinator. He readily accepts assignments and approaches them all with the same level of intensity and desire to get the job done in the most efficient and thorough manner possible.

Nielsen is dedicated to enforcing the state's boating safety laws and educating the public about safe boating practices. His roles as both an officer and an educator have made a perfect fit. He practices what he preaches when on boating

# WESTERN region

safety patrols. His goal is to educate whenever possible.

Nielsen works well with his fellow employees. He is viewed by his peers as very cooperative and puts the interest of the agency above his own desires.

In dealing with the public as both a warden and an educator, he is very professional. Nielsen's supervisors continually receive praise from the people he meets as an officer. Nielsen is the type of person who can be forceful but is also caring and understanding in the most stressful situations. He is always there to help no matter what the situation is or time of day.

Nielsen has developed an education program that works for the boaters of Southern Nevada. He is also in charge of traveling the region with the division's mobile education trailer that allows Nielsen to contact even more boaters.



Deputy  
**Clay Piper**  
Wasco County Sheriff's  
Department  
Oregon

Deputy Clay Piper has worked as a marine deputy with the Wasco County Sheriff's Marine Program for 15 years. Deputy Piper spends much of his time on patrol keeping Columbia River boaters safe, as a shepherd would keep his sheep.

Deputy Piper has made outstanding contributions to marine law enforcement in his county and throughout the state. Pat Rowland, Law Enforcement Coordinator for the Marine Board, commented that Piper is "essentially a one-man marine program for the county, turning in high performance standards for boater contacts, citations, Boating Under the Influence of Intoxicants arrests, community education and outreach."

Deputy Piper is known for his tenacious promotion of National Safe Boating Week and striving to help boaters be safe when they're on the water. Piper ensures that the annual National Safe Boating Week campaign gets a good deal of local attention. He is very resourceful and persuasive in getting numerous types of media coverage for the campaign.

For his efforts in promoting boating safe, Deputy Piper has won several top honors for himself and for his department. He is very much a yardstick by which a successful marine deputy might be measured.



Boating Ranger  
**Don Kelly**  
Division of Parks &  
Recreation  
Utah

Boating Ranger Don Kelly has been in his current position for three years as boating ranger for Pineview Reservoir in Huntsville, Utah. During this period, he has conducted and managed the operations on the reservoir in a safe, professional, and efficient manner.

He is responsible for boating enforcement patrols on the lake, which has an annual season from approximately mid-May to Labor Day. Pineview is 2,874 surface acres when full with more than one million boating visits to the reservoir in 1998, according to USDA Forest Service statistics.

During the time that Don Kelly has served at Pineview, there have been no boating fatalities. Any incidents and accidents that did occur were handled efficiently and professionally with the cooperation of the USDA Forest Service and Weber County Sheriff Office. With a seasonal deputy boating ranger and other staffers, Ranger Kelly has been able to provide more extensive coverage of the reservoir during high-use periods. In the past two years, he has increased his number of deputies, but reduced their individual hours, thus addressing the coverage needs while reducing stress and work time for the employees.

Kelly has provided very close coordination with the USDA Forest Service and Weber County Sheriff Office, which has reduced the time for responding to emergencies and other incidents. During summer 2001, there was a major boat crash and a report of a drowning swimmer within one hour of each other. Weber County Deputies and Forest Service officers secured the ramps, while Pineview boating rangers and Weber County Fire units handled the victims on the water. When the reported drowning occurred, personnel quickly shifted to that location and resumed emergency procedures.

During the 2001 boating season, more than 1,000 patrol hours were spent on the reservoir. This resulted in very high compliance of the boating registration laws. With this increased cooperation and compliance by the boating public, Deputy Kelly and his ranger staff have been able to shift some of their enforcement focus

to operations violations and identifying and removing hazardous operators.

Kelly is a certified PWC instructor and has conducted classes for the Weber County Sheriff Office and the USDA Forest Service. He has also encouraged these officers to accompany the Pineview staff on their patrols.

Deputy Kelly has attended events at an elementary school for its annual law enforcement day. He also participated in the Weber County Water Fair for boating education and served on a committee to study pollution on the reservoir.



Sergeant  
**Mike Sanford**  
Chelan Police  
Department  
Washington

Sgt. Mike Sanford has been with the Chelan Police Department Marine Patrol for 13 years. He is the Marine Patrol Supervisor responsible for overseeing the city's recreational boating safety program.

Through perseverance and professionalism in marshalling his facts, articulating and defending the issues at public meetings, and following up on unanswered questions, he overcame skeptics and persons opposed to greater regulation of boating and convinced the City of Chelan Council and Chelan County Commissioners to adopt identical regulations so that boaters would then see uniform regulations applied to the entire body of water of Lake Chelan where both entities have jurisdiction. As a result, Chelan County passed the recommended ordinances not only for its jurisdiction on Lake Chelan but for all waters within Chelan County including parts of the Columbia River, a very popular recreational boating body of water in Washington State.

He followed up by rewriting city and county ordinances, revising local boating safety pamphlets, updating boating regulation signage at the city's launch ramps and restructuring the city's watercraft rental business safety briefings. At the same time, he convinced the City Council to approve funding for a part-time marine patrol division, which dramatically enhanced the city's marine patrol program.

As a result of Sgt. Sanford's efforts, boating accidents were reduced by almost 50 percent. This can be directly attributed to the increased presence of the part-time marine patrol officer, and a concentrated effort to educate the boating public on the revised and existing ordinances and regulations.

For information on nominating an officer for the NASBLA Boating Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award, contact your state boating law administrator. Information is also available by contacting Kimberly Hermes, NASBLA Law Enforcement Committee staff member, at 859.225.9487 or [editor@nasbla.org](mailto:editor@nasbla.org).



## Oklahoma Marine Tactics Training Right on Target

Each spring the Oklahoma Highway Patrol, Lake Patrol Section (Troop W) conducts its annual in-service training. Known as MarTac, this training focuses on marine tactics and live-fire shooting scenarios from patrol vessels.

MarTac is certified by the Oklahoma Council on Law Enforcement Education and Training. Students receive eight hours of certified law enforcement training after successfully completing the course.

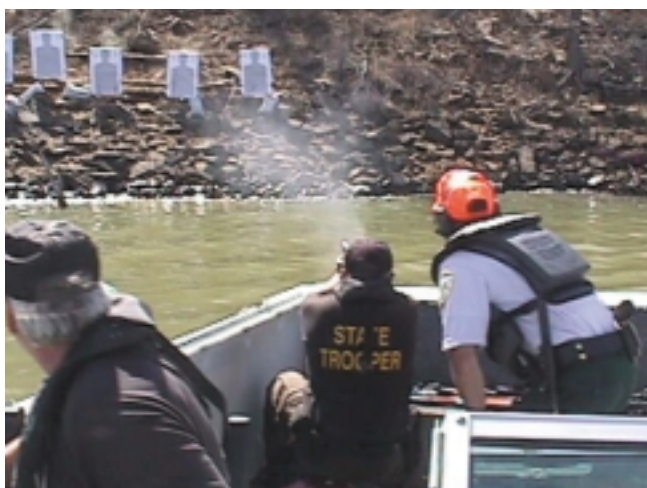
MarTac involves live-fire shooting scenarios from a patrol vessel using the trooper's issued firearms. The scenarios are designed to be as realistic as possible while maintaining a high

Adding to the realism of the scenarios are a set of remote-controlled targets that can be moved up or down and present various levels of threat as desired by the range master. Another feature of the course is a remote-controlled AR-15 rifle that fires blanks to provide additional stimulus during the shooting situations. The wireless remote can control up to eight devices within a range of approximately 200 meters. The targets and rifle firing mechanism were designed and built by Scott Croasdale, a MarTac instructor.

Targets can be randomly interchanged from male to

the in-service program. Students had hands-on participation from course setup to teardown.

"Realistically, there is no way to simulate shooting from a boat without actually being on the water," said Lt. Bob Sanders, Oklahoma's boating law administrator and commander of Marine Law Enforcement Training. "Our intention was to have instructors go away from here with the ability to adequately and safely teach their own personnel proper shooting techniques in a waterborne environment.



*During in-service training offered each spring for the Oklahoma Highway Patrol's Lake Patrol Section, instructors keep a close watch on students during numerous realistic situations. The training gives students hands-on training in marine tactics and live-fire shooting scenarios. Photos courtesy Oklahoma Highway Patrol*

level of safety. Prior to entering the firearms portion of the course, troopers are taught officer safety and survival skills, range safety, shooting positions, tactical reloading techniques and the importance of maintaining a heightened level of vigilance when approaching suspicious vessels or answering a trouble call.

The firearms portion consists of five separate shooting scenarios from the patrol vessel. The trooper is armed and equipped as if reporting for routine duty.

"We've tried to get our troopers out of the mindset of being static when a shooting situation occurs. We want them to be reactive and moving, making use of what little cover and concealment they have available aboard a patrol vessel," said Trp. Mike Rousey, MarTac instructor. "When moving from the land to the water, everything changes relative to shooting styles and positions. Officers have to consider wave and wake motion as well as the position of the patrol vessel and still maintain round accountability each time they squeeze the trigger," added Rousey.

female and good guy to bad guy. This requires the student to make proper use of force decisions based on the level of threat presented. Pasteovers of a flashlight, beer can, beer bottle, cell phone, tire iron, knife, gun and an empty hand can be placed on the targets to provide additional variety.

Trooper Mark Brown, training coordinator for the Lake Patrol Section, has worked closely with Troop W firearms and defensive tactics instructors in developing the unique training program. "We've had a lot of interest from other agencies in our MarTac program. This year we decided to offer a Train the Trainer type course that would allow instructors from outside our department the opportunity to go through the course so they can teach the program to their personnel," Brown said.

The training program held last spring was presented in three phases. The first phase addressed site selection, training props, course preparation and setup. In phase two, the instructors completed the course as students. Third was the apprenticeship phase where student-instructors taught the program under supervision of OHP MarTac instructors during

Usually when attending a course, officers don't get to see all the inner workings, preparation and problem-solving that it takes to keep things up and running. This course required active participation at all levels by the students to keep things running smoothly," Sanders said.

An unexpected benefit from the training was that students were able to conduct an unscientific study of ballistics and fiberglass boat hulls. "One of the most frequently asked questions was what effect would different types of rounds have on the hull. We didn't have the answers, so our response was shoot it and see. We also provided time for critiques, questions and answers, and suggested course adjustments. I think we all learned a lot from each other during the week," added Brown.

The Oklahoma Highway Patrol welcomes students from other states to participate in the MarTac program on a "space available basis." The agency also offers an instructors course for firearms instructors for the other states. Interested parties can contact Mark Brown at 405.425.2143 or by e-mail at mbrown@dps.state.ok.us for more information.

## More Loaner Life Jacket Boards Surfacing in Alaska

Alaskans who cruise the waters of "The Last Frontier" continue to see a rise in the number of 'Kids Don't Float' life jacket loaner stations, where children and adults can borrow life jackets for use while boating or simply being near the water.

The Alaska-based program is sponsored by the U.S. Coast Guard, the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services Section of Community Health and Emergency Medical Services, and the Alaska Boating Safety Program. The loaner boards are constructed and maintained by local organizations such as fire stations, harbors, scouts, native health

corporations, hospitals, parks and local retailers. The life jackets, signs and program support are provided by the three sponsors.

The program's 300th loaner board was recently installed in Kachemak Bay State Park. The park is located across Kachemak Bay from Homer, the site of Alaska's first loaner board. "Since the Homer Volunteer Fire Department installed the first loaner station in 1998, more than 6,000 life jackets have been provided for loaner stations throughout Alaska," said Jeff Johnson, Alaska boating law administrator.

"We are incredibly proud of these organizations who set up local sites, using the life jackets and signs provided by the sponsors," said 17th Coast Guard District Recreational Boating Safety Specialist Sue Hargis. "Having a life jacket on while boating or near the water is the single most important factor in saving a life," added Hargis.

Hargis explained that at six least children are alive today because of the program.

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## Kentucky and Ohio Sign Waterways Agreement

Kentucky and Ohio officials signed an agreement to mutually promote boating safety education and enforce boating laws on the portion of the Ohio River that divides the states.

The agreement was signed by Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Director Sam Speck, ODNR Division of Watercraft Acting Chief Ken Alvey and Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources Law Enforcement Director Major Charles Browning during the annual meeting of the National Association of Boating Law Administrators held in Cleveland.

"This agreement represents an important partnership and mutual understanding with our neighboring state that will benefit boating interests along the Ohio River," said Director Speck.

Specifically, the signed agreement allows each state agency to have mutual jurisdiction across the full width of the Ohio River between the two states and provides for increased opportunities to promote boating education and safety.

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*Kentucky and Ohio officials signed an agreement to mutually promote boating safety education and enforce boating laws on the portion of the Ohio River that divides the states. Signing the agreement are Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources Law Enforcement Director Major Charles Browning and Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Director Sam Speck. Also present at the signing are Kentucky Wildlife and Boating Officer Mike Fields; Rear Adm. Ron Silva, Ninth Coast Guard District Commander; NASBLA Past President Steve Hall; U.S. Coast Guard Commandant Thomas Collins; ODNR Southern Region Manager Rich Cates; and ODNR Division of Watercraft Acting Chief Ken Alvey. Staff photo*

## Fish & Wildlife Booth Big Hit at Delaware State Fair

Delaware Fish and Wildlife Agent Doug Messeck awarded 11-year-old Kaylee Collier a life jacket for participating in a contest at the Division of Fish and Wildlife exhibit at the state fair. Collier got to choose which life jacket she wanted as a prize.

Collier was one of more than 500 contestants to take part in the challenge. The object of the activity was to find and identify over 40 of Delaware's water creatures located within the division's display building at the Delaware State Fair.

The boating education booth has been at the Delaware State Fair for many years. The theme for the division's exhibit was "Boat Smart From

The Start, Wear Your Life Jacket." Numerous children visited the exhibit along with their parents and took time to seek out the various species on a checklist.

Each year, thousands of people from all over the country attend the fair, which is truly a traditional agriculture fair. Delaware's governor read the National Hunting and Fishing Day Proclamation. In addition, the Division of Fish and Wildlife Enforcement handed out fishing trophies and a savings bond to young anglers who had caught and released the most fish in their county.

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*Delaware Fish and Wildlife Agent Doug Messeck awarded 11-year-old Kaylee Collier a life jacket for participating in a contest at the state fair. Collier's prize was a brand-new life jacket. Photo courtesy Delaware Department of Natural Resources & Environmental Control*





## Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission Officers Receive Awards

Two Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission Waterways Conservation Officers (WCOs) were rewarded for their stellar service to the anglers and boaters of the commonwealth.

WCO John W. Bowser was recently honored as the Commission's Officer of the Year, while WCO Martha Mackey was named as the first recipient of the Gerald L. Greiner Environmental Protection Award.

Bowser, a 13-year veteran WCO, serves the anglers and boaters of western Erie County. His assigned district is unique in that Lake Erie and its tributaries are among the busiest waterways in the commonwealth and have many regulations that are distinct from other Pennsylvania waters. Walleye and yellow perch draw thousands of fishing boats to Lake Erie, while fall steelhead migrations bring anglers to the lake's tributary streams. Bower's district is also home to numerous watercraft involved in commercial and charter boat fishing.

In addition to his "traditional" law enforcement activities, Bowser is perhaps best

recognized as an ambassador for the Commission. He is a frequent guest at various outdoors clubs and he has developed a Lake



Erie fishing website that provides the latest local fishing and boating information.

Now in her seventh year with the Commission, Mackey is currently assigned to eastern Allegheny County. Mackey's particular emphasis on waterways protection made her a

natural choice for the inaugural Greiner Award. The honor was created as a memorial to the late Gerald "Jerry" Greiner, a WCO whose career with the Commission was marked by his dedication to the protection and enhancement of water resources. The award will be presented annually to the conservation officer who best exemplifies the ideal of "Resource First – the protection, conservation and enhancement of the Commonwealth's water resources – in the performances of one's daily duties.

In addition to enforcing conservation laws, Mackey is involved in watershed cleanup projects and takes an active role in reviewing stream encroachment applications. She has developed close working relationships with the Department of Environmental Protection, the Allegheny and Westmoreland County Conservation Districts, the Allegheny County Health Department and the Turtle Creek Watershed Association.



## South Dakota Officer Saves Life of Escaping Trespasser

On the evening of June 15, 2002, South Dakota Conservation Officers Martin Pennock and Kristoff DeKramer investigated a noisy party at Diamond Lake Game Production Area, an area off limits to parties and open fires.

As the two officers approached the group of young people, they identified themselves and ordered the partygoers to stay where they were. The young people instead chose to flee.

As the officers pursued and captured several of the group, they became aware of splashing and sounds of distress in the water off shore. Using flashlights, the officers spotted one of the partygoers who had attempted to escape by water. The drunken young man was in obvious distress.

Officer DeKramer said, "The individual was close to drowning. Officer Pennock never hesitated to remove his duty gear. He jumped into the water, swam to the individual and pulled him to shore. I can attest that this individual was in his final gasps when Marty reached him."

The irony of the story came later. After recovering somewhat, the drunken near-drowning victim and several of the other young people detained at the site attacked the two officers. The officers subdued the detainees

after a struggle that involved physical contact, pepper spray and handcuffs.

In his report of the incident, DeKramer stated, "Officer Pennock deserves a medal of heroism, bravery or something along those lines. I am

very proud to serve with such a great officer that I know will put his life on the line for me as well as for the public. I just hope we all are prepared to do the same."



*South Dakota Conservation Officer Martin Pennock (left) saved a trespasser from drowning while he and Officer Kristoff DeKramer (right) investigated reports of a noisy party on public land this summer.*

Photo courtesy South Dakota Department of Fish, Game & Parks



By Commodore Warren E. McAdams  
USCGAUX, National Directorate Commodore for Recreational Boating Safety

## Law Enforcement Officers – Boating Safety Advocates

State boating law agencies have been advocates and champions of recreational boating safety for years. Many agencies teach or provide state-sponsored public education courses. In addition, many have officers available to present legal requirements in safe boating classes presented by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and other organizations. As NASBLA has adopted public education course standards, many states are taking the time to define and outline what is needed to teach state-specific requirements in public education classes.

More recently, another program has opened up for possible participation by the states. In a study initiated by the U.S. Coast Guard, the old Courtesy Marine Examination (CME) program was re-engineered and renamed the Vessel Safety Check program. The steering committee that formulated the re-engineering reached several key conclusions. These conclusions or directions were influenced, as they should be, by the makeup of the group, which consisted of the Coast Auxiliary, Coast Guard, boating law administrators and industry representatives.

Without going through the entire report, a few highlights provide key features of the revamped program.

First, the program was seen as a very effective way to reach out to the public and deliver boating safety messages. While the focus is a check for legal requirements and overall boat condition, a Vessel Safety Check is also seen as a public education experience for the boater. Dialogue with the examiner during the Vessel Safety Check often expands the boater's knowledge on a number of safety topics. In addition, the Vessel Safety Check presents an opportunity to inform people about upcoming boating safety classes that will be presented in the local area.

Another conclusion by the group recognized that more providers could reach greater numbers of boaters and deliver greatly expanded results. The first new provider to join the program was the United States Power Squadrons (USPS). With their large membership, long-standing interest in public education, and devotion to recreational boating safety, the organization was a natural to become a provider of Vessel Safety Checks.

To date, the Squadrons are on good growth curves for numbers of both examiners and Vessel Safety Checks.

Another logical group of providers was determined to be the states. Some states already had vessel examination programs and some issued decals of their own design to boaters that successfully passed an inspection. The thinking here, as with the USPS, is to expand the vessel examination efforts under one broad program known as the Vessel Safety Check (VSC) program.

The VSC program, as with the older CME program, is a Coast Guard program and the Coast Guard Auxiliary was designated executive agent and administrator of the program. However, for the program to reach its potential the provider base must be greatly expanded.

This brings us back to the states as potential providers for the Vessel Safety Check program. Four states are signed on as VSC providers and several more are in the wings, preparing to join. Not all states have the resources to be providers but, for those that do, we urge them to discuss the program with us and sign on. With multiple organizations and agencies acting as providers there is the potential to raise awareness of the Vessel Safety Check program to a very high level. For states that do not have the resources necessary to become providers, we urge them to become proactive supporters.

To increase awareness of the program, the marketing efforts of all providers and supporters should supply added visibility for the program. The Vessel Safety Check Program should be emphasized in all public education courses. Boating safety marketing initiatives by the states should sell the virtues of the program. The program should also be highlighted in state handbooks on legal requirements and boating rules. The Coast Guard is also investigating additional ways to market the Vessel Safety Check program and America's Boating Course.

With emphasis by the states and volunteer organizations, the desirability of taking a boating safety course has been raised to a high profile. Now is the time to raise the visibility and demand for the Vessel Safety Check program. The program provides an excellent vehicle that can reach both traditional and non-traditional boaters.

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*The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary serves as designated executive agent and administrator of the U.S. Coast Guard's Vessel Safety Check (VSC) program. However, for the program to reach its potential the provider base must be greatly expanded. State boating law enforcement officers can help with this endeavor. While the focus is a check for legal requirements and overall boat condition, a Vessel Safety Check is also seen as a public education experience for the boater. Dialogue with the examiner during a Vessel Safety Check often expands the boater's knowledge on a number of safety topics.* Photo courtesy U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary





Capt. Scott Evans  
Chief Office of Boating Safety



## Marine Patrol Officers Play Important Role in Boating Safety

In the May/June issue of *Small Craft Advisory*, I spoke of important boating safety partnerships, (the small sticks, large bundle thing.) In this issue I will discuss one of our most important partnerships – the relationship between the U.S. Coast Guard and state marine patrol officers.

I cannot overstate the importance these marine patrol officers have in the overall success of America's boating safety programs. They are so important that the Coast Guard hosts a course specifically designed and tailored to these officers – the Marine Patrol Officers Course (MPOC).

MPOC has become one of the real jewels of the National Recreational Boating Safety Program. Recognizing the importance of partnerships with state and local law enforcement agencies, this course was established in 1983 as the National Boating Safety Instructors Course (NBSIC). The mission at that time was to train maritime law enforcement officers in the enforcement of boating safety laws and regulations.

Throughout the years, the target students and the school's mission have changed. These changes included developing instructor skills with the goal of creating instructors of boating safety for their home states and individual agencies. This employs the train-the-trainer philosophy.

Today's MPOC is the result of the valuable feedback from students and instructors and lessons learned from the Advanced Marine Patrol Officers Course (AMPOC). This one-time prototype class provided an excellent test bed for curricula the marine patrol officers had been requesting for some time. The students – all graduates of previous NBSIC classes – received instruction and hands-on training in topics including defensive tactics, tactical boat handling, navigation skills, boarding procedures, and a law enforcement survival swim.

AMPOC provided valuable information including the realization that a course of this magnitude, while truly a great product, was not sustainable. The MLE School staff could not have completed this course without the help of many agencies and staff members including TRACEN Yorktown UTB Systems Centers, boat and crews. The Virginia Marine Resources Commission, which supplied small boats and additional personnel, also provided invaluable assistance. Their involvement was coordinated with a few phone calls and a couple of meetings

and demonstrated interagency cooperation at its best.

Ever evolving and improving, the current curriculum includes the core classes of instructor development, boating safety carriage requirements, boating under the influence (BUI) instruction among others. It also includes updated versions of some previously offered classes, including navigations rules, stolen vessel investigation and boating accidents first-responder skills.

Both the stolen vessel and accident investigation classes bring yet other boating safety partners to the course including representatives and instructors from the International Association of Marine Investigations (IAMI), the Oregon Marine Board and Underwriters Laboratories (UL).

The current MPOC is the finest courses of its type to be offered anywhere. The course is two weeks long and is conducted three times each year at the Coast Guard Training Center located in Yorktown, Virginia. The instructors, borrowed from the Maritime Law Enforcement School staff, are subject matter experts and some of the finest instructors around.

The training that officers receive at MPOC can be put to use immediately. Another added benefit is improved networking between agencies. Just think, three times a year 32 law enforcement officers and Coast Guard personnel interact for two intensive weeks of training, discussing boating safety issues, problems and concerns. These sessions, both formal and informal, have led to solutions for both simple and sometimes extremely complex boating safety, law enforcement and training concerns.

The returns from government programs can sometimes be difficult to measure or gauge. This is not the case with MPOC, for the boating public and the states have definitely gotten an impressive return on their investment with this program.

To date, there are nearly 2,000 graduates of this program out there; marine patrol officers from all 56 states and territories including Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Marianas and Saipan. They all have the same goal: Promote boating



NASBLA Past President Steve Hall welcomes Joe Carro, Marine Patrol Officers Course (MPOC) manager with the U.S. Coast Guard Office of Boating Safety, at the NASBLA conference in Cleveland, Ohio. Staff Photo

safety though education, enforcement and training. MPOC has helped provide the skills and knowledge to reach that goal.

If you are a supervisor and would like your officers to attend, or if you are a marine patrol officer looking to receive some outstanding training, please contact your boating law administrator or the U.S. Coast Guard Office of Boating Safety for further information. This is definitely one opportunity you do not want to miss.

Oh, I almost forgot to mention that the Office of Boating Safety has a new member on our team. Please help me welcome Mr. Joe Carro. Guess where Joe comes to us from? He was our Senior Instructor at TRACEN Yorktown and was one of the key team members responsible for converting the MPOC into the great training program it is today. And guess what else? He is our MPOC Manager, here at headquarters. It just doesn't get any better than this!

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# 2003 RECREATIONAL BOATING SAFETY CALENDAR

## JANUARY

**1 - 5**  
U.S. Power Squadrons  
Annual Meeting  
Orlando, Florida  
888.367.8777

**13 - 17**  
NASBLA  
National Boating Accident Investigators'  
Level One Training  
Tallahassee, Florida  
859.225.9487

## FEBRUARY

**10 - 14**  
NASBLA  
National Boating Accident Investigators'  
Level One Training  
Dallas, Texas  
859.225.9487

**22**  
NASBLA Numbering & Titling  
Committee Meeting  
Panama City, Florida  
859.225.9487

**23 - 27**  
International Association of  
Marine Investigators  
Annual Meeting  
Panama City, Florida  
978.392.9292

## MARCH

**14**  
NASBLA Law Enforcement  
Committee Meeting  
Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky  
859.225.9487

**15**  
NASBLA BAIRAC  
Committee Meeting  
Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky  
859.225.9487

## MARCH CONTINUED

**16**  
NASBLA Boats & Associated Equipment  
Committee Meeting  
Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky  
859.225.9487

**17 - 21**  
NASBLA  
National Boating Accident Investigators'  
Level One Training  
Vancouver, Washington  
859.225.9487

**29 - April 3**  
Southern States Boating  
Law Administrators Association  
Annual Conference  
Mobile, Alabama  
334.353.2628

## APRIL

**7 - 11**  
NASBLA  
National Boating Accident  
Investigators'  
Level One Training  
Chicago, Illinois  
859.225.9487

**12**  
NASBLA Education  
Committee Meeting  
Las Vegas, Nevada  
859.225.9487

**13 - 16**  
International Boating &  
Water Safety Summit  
Las Vegas, Nevada  
740.666.3009

**26 - 30**  
National Boating Safety Advisory Council  
Meeting  
New Orleans, Louisiana  
202.267.0950

## MAY

**2 - 3**  
NASBLA Waterways Management  
Committee Meeting  
Portland, Oregon  
859.225.9487

**4 - 7**  
Western States Boating Administrators  
Association  
Annual Conference  
Portland, Oregon  
503.373.1405

**5 - 9**  
NASBLA  
National Boating Accident Investigators'  
Level One Training  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania  
859.225.9487

**7 - 11**  
U.S. Power Squadrons  
Spring Governing Board Meeting  
New Orleans, Louisiana  
888.367.8777

**17 - 23**  
National Safe Boating Week  
740.666.3009

## JUNE

**8 - 11**  
Northern Association  
of Boating Administrators  
Annual Conference  
Bar Harbor, Maine  
207.287.2766

**14 - 17**  
Personal Flotation Device  
Manufacturers Association  
Annual Meeting  
St. Petersburg Beach, Florida  
312.946.6280

## SEPTEMBER

**3 - 7**  
U.S. Power Squadrons  
Fall Governing Board Meeting  
Reno, Nevada  
888.367.8777

### Following is the editorial calendar for Small Craft Advisory:

Issue	Focus	Submissions due
Jan/Feb 2003	Waterways Management	October 16, 2002
Mar/Apr 2003	Needs Assessment	December 18, 2002
May/Jun 2003	Environment	February 19, 2003
Jul/Aug 2003	Personal Watercraft	April 23, 2003
Sept/Oct 2003	Education	June 18, 2003
Nov/Dec 2003	Boating Law Enforcement Officers	August 20, 2003

*NASBLA welcomes information about boating-related conferences that would appeal to a national audience. Please e-mail information to [editor@nasbla.org](mailto:editor@nasbla.org).*



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