

SCA

small craft advisory



- Meet the Boating Officers of the Year
- Fallen Officers Memorialized
- 2010's Boating Safety Stars

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National Association of State Boating Law Administrators

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A tribute to outstanding boating officers from around the country

ON THE COVER: Sgt. Doug Schuster with the Mohave County (Ariz.) Sheriff's Office was named Boating Officer of the Year by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators in September 2010. He earned this distinction with his dedication to promoting and advocating boating safety throughout his 21-year career.

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

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Kudos to boating officers of the year



Jim Graybeal
NASBLA President



John Johnson
NASBLA Executive Director

As a natural resources law enforcement officer for over 25 years, one of the highlights of my involvement with NASBLA is the opportunity to read the candidate profiles of the officers nominated for NASBLA's Butch Potts Boating Law Enforcement Boating Officer of the Year Award. Each state award recipient demonstrates the dedication and hard work it takes to go above the "minimum standard" that enables him or her to excel on the job while saving lives.

The 2010 NASBLA Boating Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award recipient was Sergeant Doug Schuster from the Mohave County (Arizona) Sheriff's Office. He also received the Western States Boating Administrators Association's regional Boating Officer of the Year Award. Sgt. Schuster has spent the last 13 years serving as the boating safety supervisor on Lake Havasu, which is located on the California/Arizona state line on the Colorado River and boasts as many as 3.5 million visitors per year. He has logged well over 5000 water patrol hours and has personally made over 300 arrests. He is also dedicated to a proactive approach of teaching boating safety to elementary schoolchildren at local schools.

Schuster along with fellow regional award winners Aaron Kahre from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and Master Officer Robert Wayne with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission and a host of state-level boating officers of the year reflect the kind of commitment, leadership and personal sacrifice that have made the National Recreational Boating Safety Program a success since its inception. We can never lose sight of the fact that it is the marine patrol officers themselves who form the critical links with the boating public that lead to changes in attitudes and behavior.

Since the NASBLA Boating Officer of the Year Award, generously sponsored by Revere, was launched more than a decade ago, our association has recognized 419 individual

boating officers for the work they do to keep our waterways safe and secure. Like NASBLA and the state boating programs we serve, the mission of the modern day marine patrol officer has come to include a much broader array of public services than ever before.

Throughout the country, the role of the marine patrol officer has been redefined to include such diverse functions as community policing, drug and migrant interdiction, port and waterways security, conservation law enforcement, escort support for high-value maritime assets including military and commercial applications, preparedness and response for natural and man-made disasters, accident investigation and reporting, drug and alcohol enforcement, search and rescue and recovery, boating safety boardings and inspections, commercial passenger vessel inspections, boat theft and fraud, navigation safety, and commercial fisheries enforcement.

Read that list again. This is a tremendous set of highly specialized duties and responsibilities and, although only a few officers perform all of these activities in the scope of a year, you can bet that most officers perform most of these functions over the course of their careers.

This increased level of specialization among marine patrol officers, as well as the proliferation of this new breed of professional, marine law enforcement officer at the federal, state, county and municipal levels of government (largely since 2001), has led NASBLA to a renewed commitment and concentration on the training and development needs these officers pose for their respective agencies. NASBLA's BOAT (Boat Operations and Training) Program was designed specifically with these officer and agency needs in mind.

With course offerings from the Basic Boat Crew Member Course to the advanced Tactical Operators Course available now, and a new Boat Operators Search and Rescue

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2011 ANNUAL CONFERENCE
SEPTEMBER 9-14, 2011
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

Milwaukee

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Oklahoma Highway patrol trooper dies after accident

NASBLA mourns the loss of one of its former members, Capt. George Green with the Oklahoma Highway Patrol. Capt. Green died on Oct. 26, 2010, from injuries sustained during an on-duty vehicle collision with a dump truck the previous day.

Capt. George Green began his law enforcement career in 1978 as a patrol officer in Guthrie, Okla. In 1979 he entered the Oklahoma Highway Patrol Academy. Upon graduation, he was assigned to the Oklahoma Highway Patrol. He was promoted to first line supervisor in 1985 and Troop Commander in 1996 with an initial command in Tulsa, where he established one of the patrol's first major crash investigation teams. He also served on the patrol's Tactical Team and as a Firearms Instructor, Field Training Officer and Field Training Supervisor.

Capt. Green was assigned to the Lake Patrol Section of the Highway Patrol in 2004. He was soon named commander, becoming the state boating law administrator. He continued serving as Oklahoma's boating law administrator until April 2009. During that time he actively participated in NASBLA, serving as committee chair and Executive Board Member. He also served on the Executive Board of the Southern States Boating Law Administrators Association as treasurer.

A 31-year veteran of the Oklahoma Highway Patrol, George was described as an excellent leader, someone who always went out of his way to make sure his officers and the public were safe. George was a devoted family man and enjoyed time spent on activities with his family. An outdoorsman, he enjoyed hunting, hiking, kayaking, and other outdoor activities. He was also an avid runner.

Register now for Spring BLA Workshop

The 2011 Spring Boating Law Administrators Workshop will be held March 2-3, 2011, in Lexington, Kentucky. Topics on the agenda for the two-day meeting include:

- National RBS Grant Program Overview
- Vessel Identification System
- Washington's State Recreational Boating Activities, Revenues and Expenditures, and Organizational Structure
- Issues in Accident Reporting and Data Collection
- NASBLA Boat Operations & Training Program

For more information and to register for the workshop, visit <http://bit.ly/BLA2011>.



Capt. George Green with the Oklahoma Highway Patrol

NASBLA President appointed to BoatUS National Advisory Council

NASBLA President Jim Graybeal is one of five key appointments to the BoatUS National Advisory Committee. Other appointees include Nicholas Kerigan, national commodore, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary; Creighton Maynard, chief commander, United States Power Squadrons; Linda Bendsen, president, Recreational Boaters of California; and Bob Adriance, editor of Seaworthy magazine.

The Council was created over 30 years ago to advise and guide the over half-million-member association on federal and state issues critical to recreational boaters. Throughout the years they have debated policy topics ranging from unfair fees and taxes to today's hot-button issues such as the increasing levels of ethanol in gasoline, mandatory life jacket wear, marine protected areas and homeland security.

BOAT Program receives national recognition

On September 29, 2010, the NASBLA Boat Operations and Training (BOAT) Program received national recognition with a Bright Ideas Award from the Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation at the Harvard Kennedy School. Bright Ideas is a new program that serves to recognize promising government programs and partnerships that serve as example solutions to challenges presented to government agencies.

The BOAT Program was selected for the program for its collaborative efforts with the U.S. Coast Guard in the development and delivery of standardized marine law enforcement training. The BOAT Program establishes a national standard for the training, qualification, credentialing and typing of maritime law enforcement and rescue personnel. Standardization ensures maritime agencies can interact together and will bolster their ability to act as force multipliers nationwide.

"NASBLA and our Coast Guard partners are thrilled by this recognition of the BOAT Program. In our inaugural year, through delivery of this nationally standardized training, we have forged new relationships across multiple jurisdictional lines," said John Fetterman, NASBLA's director of law enforcement.

"Our Tactical Operators Course has trained hundreds of state, local and federal marine law enforcement boat operators and we are seeing new levels of trust and understanding across agency and departmental lines. I truly believe that we are changing the dynamics and security of our maritime domain on a national level, taking a major step toward the safety and security of America's waterways and ports," he added.

For more information about the BOAT Program, visit <http://www.nasbla.org/boat>. 🌐



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NASBLA welcomes new boating law administrators

As people pursue new opportunities, organizations reorganize and politics influence staff appointments, the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators continues to see new faces among its members.

We welcome these new members aboard and encourage them to become involved in NASBLA and reap the benefits of their membership.



Laurel Anders – Pennsylvania

Laurel Anders began her career as a volunteer park naturalist assistant with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) in 1990. As her career progressed she became a wage employee and worked with both the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) and DCNR from 1994 through 1998 in education-related capacities. She joined the Commission as a full-time aquatic resources program specialist in 1998 and provided boating safety education training to the public, PFBC staff and volunteer instructors.

Since 2007, she has served as the PFBC's strategic planner, helping to launch the PFBC's next five-year strategic plan and coordinating various special initiatives. Laurel earned a bachelor of science degree in education from Slippery Rock University and has completed several advanced planning and environmental education training courses as well as the National Conservation Leadership Institute.

Laurel joined the Boating & Access staff as its new director on July 19, 2010, following the retirement of Dan Martin. Laurel's nearly 14 years of combined service with DCNR and the PFBC, coupled with her knowledge, experiences and interest in boating and boating safety education make her an excellent fit for the position.

Laurel comes from an outdoors family and spends countless hours boating and fishing on the waterways in south-central Pennsylvania. Growing up, weekends were for getting outdoors and boating. Her more recent notable boating adventures include paddling her dad's homemade cedar strip canoe on Father's Day, participating in the West Branch Susquehanna River Sojourn, and beating the heat by jet skiing on the Susquehanna.



Tom Guess – Virginia

Tom Guess, who grew up spending time in and on the waters of Virginia on various boats and as a lifeguard, took over as Virginia's BLA on Nov. 1, 2010. He succeeds Charlie Sledd, who retired after more than 36 years of service to the commonwealth and 10 years as a BLA.

In June 2008, Tom joined the Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries as a statewide boating safety education coordinator, after retiring from a 21-year career with the U.S. Coast Guard.

Tom spent the majority of his Coast Guard career working in maritime law enforcement and search & rescue operations on the water. From July 2001 to June 2004, he was assigned to Coast Guard Training Center Yorktown as an instructor with the Maritime Law Enforcement School.

"In this capacity I was also a Marine Patrol Officer Course (MPOC) instructor where I had the opportunity to work closely with state marine patrol officers and learn a great deal about NASBLA and the Coast Guard's recreational boating safety program," Tom added.

He earned his bachelor of science degree in criminal justice from Southwestern College, in Winfield, Kan., in May 2008. He is pursuing his master's of science in leadership and will graduate in May 2011.

Tom is continually amazed at the general lack of boating safety knowledge by many recreational boaters. "This is especially troubling considering the growing congestion on the water coupled with easy access to increasingly fast and high performance watercraft," he said.

Virginia is phasing in an education compliance requirement that will eventually require all operators of vessels with motors 10 hp or greater to take a NASBLA-approved boating safety course.

Tom plans to continue working through this phase-in and closely monitor boating trends and statistics "to do what we can to reduce the number of boating incidents and related fatalities on the water.



Brandon Gust – South Dakota

Brandon Gust grew up spending time on the water and recreating with family on the lakes located throughout the Black Hills in western South Dakota. He enjoys boating anytime the opportunity presents itself.

Brandon became the BLA for South Dakota last fall when he accepted a new position as a law enforcement specialist with Game, Fish and Parks. Previously he served as a conservation officer and was named South Dakota's Boating Officer of the Year in 2009. Before becoming a conservation officer, Brandon earned a bachelor's degree in wildlife and fisheries management along with a minor in criminal justice from South Dakota University in 2004.

Brandon views education of youth and first-time boaters as key to boating safety. He also places increased awareness and enforcement of boating under the influence laws and violations as top priorities.

South Dakota does not currently have any required education that must be completed prior to someone operating any watercraft. "This is an area that South Dakota not only could but should improve on, especially with the number of online resources that are available," said Brandon.

Another area where there is room for the state to improve is the enforcement of BUI violations and the BUI laws themselves, he added. Along with conducting a complete assessment of South Dakota's current boating program, his goal will be to improve on both of the aforementioned areas.



Sgt. Enrique Pérez Prado – Puerto Rico

Enrique Pérez Prado was named the new Puerto Rico BLA on Oct. 1, 2010, following the promotion of Saul Zapata to chief of the Department of Natural Resources Conservation Rangers.

Enrique has been working for the Puerto Rico Department of Natural Resources law enforcement division and also has been a member of the Puerto Rico National Guard since 1994. He has a bachelor's degree in criminal justice. He was assigned to the Marine Patrol Unit in 1994. In 2008 he was promoted to the rank of sergeant.

In November 2009 he was certified by the Coast Guard as a Marine Patrol Course-Instructor (MPOC-I) and began teaching boating education to both law enforcement officers and the public. He also began working as an advisor for the DNR Secretary.

"As a law enforcement officer myself, the major issue I'm planning to tackle is to improve training to the law enforcement personnel in charge of boating safety. We are drafting a plan to carry out a continuous education program to all marine enforcement personnel of the government of Puerto Rico," said Sgt. Prado. "Additionally we will establish partnerships with coastal municipalities with marine enforcement units to coordinate patrols, investigations and training."

Prado also said his office has plans to improve the data collection and investigation process of boating safety accidents and create a Boating Accident Statistical Database for Puerto Rico to establish an effective educational campaign. "We also want to provide continuous education for boaters possessing a boating safety license," he added.



Tommy Roam – Missouri

A native of Plato, Mo. - a small village in the southern part of the state - Tommy Roam is an avid boater who enjoys canoeing. On November 1, 2010, upon the retirement of Lt. Colonel Mike Smith, Tommy became Missouri's BLA. January 2011 marks his 30-year anniversary with the Missouri State Water Patrol (now the Missouri State Highway Patrol). Stops during his career include the Dive Team, director of Equipment and Supply, and administrative services major.

He has attended College of the Ozarks, Lincoln University, University of Virginia, Missouri State Water Patrol Academy and the FBI National Academy.

"Boating education continues to be an area where we must focus our efforts," said Tommy. "Here in Missouri, we continue to arrest large numbers of boaters using and in possession of alcohol and drugs. Even though we continue to focus on enforcement in this area, it is apparent that until we change the mindset that 'buzzed boating or swimming' is somehow acceptable, we will continue to see high numbers of arrests, and higher numbers of water related deaths than are necessary."

The Missouri State Water Patrol was recently merged with the Missouri State Highway Patrol. With this merger, Tommy sees the water patrol being able to bring the highway patrol's added resources to the table in both education and enforcement. "It is our desire that we will provide the citizens of Missouri and visitors a better product," he added. 🌟

NASBLA CONFERENCE PROVIDES FORUM FOR INFORMATION, NETWORKING

By Kimberly Jenkins



Tom Pokahu Stone (left) led a traditional Hawaiian prayer ceremony during the opening of NASBLA's annual conference. Staff photos



RADM Kevin Cook with the U.S. Coast Guard served as the keynote speaker for the opening ceremonies of the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators' annual conference. He commended NASBLA on its accomplishments over the last 50 years and discussed state recreational boating safety program accomplishments.

The National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) held its 2010 annual conference in Honolulu Sept. 9-14. It was only fitting that the conclusion to NASBLA's year-long fiftieth-anniversary celebration occur in the fiftieth state.

Held in a different state each year, this conference provides a forum for boating law administrators, marine patrol officers, boating safety educators, marine industry leaders and others to discuss issues regarding recreational boating safety, connect with peers and recognize individuals for achievements.

The conference officially kicked off on Sept. 11 with the opening ceremonies. With a nod to the host state's customs, this year's opening ceremonies featured a traditional Hawaiian prayer led by Tom Pohaku Stone, a legendary native Hawaiian surfer and waterman who has been on a lifelong journey in search of his cultural heritage. Following the invocation, guests were welcomed to Hawaii by the state's boating law administrator, Ed Underwood, and Laura H. Thielen, director of the Hawaii Department of Land & Natural Resources.

RADM Kevin Cook, director of Prevention Policy for the U.S. Coast Guard, served as the evening's keynote speaker. He commended NASBLA on its accomplishments over the last 50 years and discussed state recreational boating safety program accomplishments, boating safety education efforts and the Sport Fish Restoration & Boating Trust Fund.

Next, Craig Floyd, executive director for the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, discussed the new National Law Enforcement Museum being built in Washington, D.C. He then expounded on the importance of law enforcement officers from all disciplines and led a somber Fallen Officer Remembrance ceremony.

Editor's note: Read more from the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund in Craig Floyd's article on pp. 12-13.

Closing out the opening ceremonies, NASBLA President Terry West announced Major General Don Riley, deputy commanding general and deputy chief (retired) with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) as the 2010 recipient of the William B. Garner National Boating Safety Leadership Award. MG Riley was selected for his role in the ACE's recent mandatory life jacket wear test program. Col. Edward Kertis, commander and division engineer for the ACE Pacific Ocean Division, accepted the prestigious award on Riley's behalf. Following the awards presentation, Col. Kertis signed memoranda of understanding with both NASBLA and the National Safe Boating Council. After the opening ceremonies, attendees networked with each other and conference exhibitors during the president's reception.

The first full day of the conference, Sept. 12, began with a working session for boating law administrators (BLAs). During this meeting, BLAs discussed the organization's progress over the past year and charted the course for the upcoming year.

NASBLA's annual business meeting took place after lunch. This served to wrap up the previous year's business, as well as begin the next year's work. Toby Velasquez, NASBLA treasurer, gave a report on the nonprofit organization's financial information. Next, Ray Tsuneyoshi, former BLA for the state of California, was announced as the recipient of NASBLA's new Waterways Management Award for his career-long commitment to Waterways Management issues.

Also during the meeting, NASBLA members elected the new Executive Board members:

- President - Jim Graybeal, Delaware Department of Natural Resources & Environmental Control
- Vice President - Mike Fields, Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources



A variety of breakout sessions were available for attendees. During one well-attended breakout, Fred Messmann (left) assisted Stephanie Hussey with the Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation in demonstrating an inflatable life jacket.

(Below) Janine Driver provided an energetic and engaging presentation on the importance of body language in communication.



At the conclusion of the conference, Terry West passed the fid, along with the responsibilities of NASBLA president, to Jim Graybeal.

- Treasurer – Toby Velasquez, New Mexico State Parks.
- Members-At-Large – Herb Angell, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission; Kevin Bergersen, Arizona Game & Fish Department; and Eleanor Mariani, Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection.
- Immediate Past President – Terry West, Georgia Department of Natural Resources

The next day began with Peter Bishop, Ph.D., an associate professor of strategic foresight and director of the graduate program in futures studies at the University of Houston, providing a sneak peek into the future. Dr. Bishop emphasized the need to think proactively about the future, commenting that “We are the history of future generations.” He discussed the various factors that will impact the future, including globalization, energy/environment, technology and governance.

Next, attendees learned about Beyond Boot Camp, the sequel to the Cold Water Boot Camp video developed as a training aid by the National Water Safety Congress. As part of a training program, the video and related materials provide educators with tools to better inform themselves and their students about the risk of cold water immersion.

Capt. Mark Rizzo and Jeff Hoedt, with the U.S. Coast Guard’s Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety, provided the latest recreational boating statistics, then James Law, chief and senior analyst of the Coast Guard’s Compliance Analysis Division, discussed commercial vessel safety and marine casualty investigations.

During lunch attendees enjoyed the annual awards banquet, during which some of the go-getters in the realm of boating safety and enforcement were recognized and applauded for their efforts.

Editor’s Note: For more information about the 2010 awards, see pp. 10-11.

Following the awards luncheon, a Life Jacket Mandatory Wear Town Hall Meeting was led by four industry experts – Capt. Richard Moore, Florida BIA; Margaret Podlich, BoatUS; Lynda Nutt, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; and Jeffrey Hoedt, U.S. Coast Guard. Ideas generated during the discussion included:

- Equating life jacket wear to wearing a motorcycle helmet rather than buckling a seatbelt;

- Setting a standard of care;
- Simplifying life jackets; and
- Gaining consensus across the board.

Next, E.M. Miller, director of the Virginia Division of Legislative Services, discussed the Uniform Certificate of Title Act for Vessels and outlined the process for moving the act along the path to become law.

Closing out the afternoon session, Janine Driver, author of *You Say More than You Think: A 7-Day Plan on Using the New Body Language to Get What You Want*, discussed the importance of body language. During her energetic and engaging presentation, Janine explained that body language itself is meaningless – it’s our perceptions of the various physical signals that count.

Sept. 14 began with breakout sessions covering topics such as waterborne response, safety campaigns, grass-roots advocacy, on-water training, social media, and cold water immersion.

Following lunch, Gary Abernethy, an expert in training and education, demonstrated maritime domain awareness services and the platform’s ability to create automated alerts.

Next, Tammy Terry, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, and Richard Moore, Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission, discussed the importance of providing information through boating accident reports as well as a new two-tiered reporting process recommended by the National Boating Safety Advisory Council. Two tips for improving the quality of data provided are to ensure that you complete the form and beef up the narratives.

Wrapping up the general session, Richard Moore and Tim Baumgarten, Arizona Game and Fish, presented the new standardized afloat sobriety tests. NASBLA received funding for a three-year grant in 2006. Through scientific methodology four tests – horizontal gaze nystagmus, finger to nose, palm pat and hand coordination – were identified for afloat use. The next step will involve developing a training curriculum.

The conference ended that afternoon with the historic passing of the fid as Terry West transferred his responsibilities to the new president, Jim Graybeal. ★

Accolades for high-achievers

Each year, the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) honors outstanding individuals and groups for their contributions to recreational boating safety. At its 51st Annual Conference in September, NASBLA presented awards to several individuals. Following are summaries of the past year's honorees.

President's Award

NASBLA President Terry West bestowed five President's Awards for special recognition of contributions last year to boating safety and NASBLA:

- Captain Mark Rizzo, Chief, U.S. Coast Guard Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety, in recognition of his outstanding leadership efforts.
- Ray Tsuneyoshi, former California BLA, for his outstanding work in the field of waterways management, for serving as NASBLA Treasurer, and for nine years of service to the people of California as boating law administrator.
- Merlin Johns, former Oklahoma BLA & past NASBLA President, for his role in founding *Small Craft Advisory* magazine.
- Dr. Deb Gona, NASBLA Staff, for her outstanding service to the association and for her ongoing work to correct discrepancies in boating accident data reporting.
- Missouri State Water Patrol, for their invaluable assistance in helping to develop the new Standardized Field Sobriety Tests.

Boating Safety Award



Marty Stone (right), Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Boating Safety Award (presented by NASBLA Awards Committee chairman Kim Elverum)

Marty Stone, a conservation officer with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, received the

2010 Boating Safety Award for his foresight and leadership in boating enforcement efforts.

Sponsored by the National Safe Boating Council, the Boating Safety Award is presented to a state or local government individual who is involved in boating safety and has demonstrated outstanding performance in any area of the program.

Stone works the majority of his boating enforcement on the Mississippi River, which has heavy recreational boating traffic, as well as significant commercial barge traffic. Noticing the recent increase in large, high-speed offshore powerboats on the river, Stone became the leader in boat enforcement and noise violations on his stretch of the Mississippi River. His knowledge of the SAE standard testing procedures is unparalleled. He has organized interagency noise and intoxicated boater checks on the Mississippi River for more than five years. In addition, he has coordinated patrol efforts with officers from Iowa and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The number of boats encountered and cited for various violations has significantly dropped in recent years because of his efforts.

NASBLA Award

Officer Tim Baumgarten, with the Arizona Game and Fish Department, received the 2010 NASBLA Award in recognition of his exemplary performance in recreational boating safety enforcement and his impact on national impaired-boating enforcement efforts.

Officer Baumgarten is recognized as an expert in watercraft law enforcement, especially in BUI practices and techniques, boat theft investigations, and watercraft accident investigations. Throughout his 30-year career, Baumgarten has focused on the advancement of knowledge regarding impaired boat operator detection and enforcement efforts. He was involved in the first impaired boating checkpoint in Arizona in 1993, and since then he has participated and/or supervised numerous others.

Baumgarten serves as a BUI instructor



Officer Tim Baumgarten, Arizona Game and Fish Department, NASBLA Award

for NASBLA, providing numerous classes to hundreds of officers across the U.S. He has also brought Arizona's innovative OUI special project "best practices" to other agencies

and helped develop a watercraft law enforcement training program for federal officers as well as a BUI checkpoint plan protocol and other OUI/BUI operational forms. Baumgarten served as a technical and background author for NASBLA during the multi-year project to validate the standardized field sobriety tests for use in the marine environment.

Bonner Award

Alfred Johnson, U.S. Coast Guard (retired), was recipient of the 2010 Bonner Award for his tireless efforts to improve paddlesport safety.

Soon after becoming the First District's recreational boating safety specialist in February 1997, Johnson identified an increasing trend in the rate of non-motorized recreational boating and paddling fatalities in the Northeast. He sought partners in paddling communities in a quest to reverse this trend. The First District further addressed this concern by generating greater paddlesport safety awareness among its partners and, in conjunction with the New England Safe Boating Council, by developing the Paddle (and Boat) Smart Campaign.

Johnson later worked with the Maine Association of Sea Kayak Guides and Instructors, Maine Island Trail Association and the University of Maine Sea Grant Program to create the safety brochure, *A Sea Kayaker's Guide to Safety and Stewardship* in Maine. He also worked with boating law administrators and safety partners to develop a three-hour pad-

desport safety seminar that focused on risk assessment, preparation, communications and sudden cold-water immersion.

Compass Award



Jeff Johnson (left) and Joe McCullough (right), Alaska Office of Boating Safety, Compass Award

NASBLA selected the Alaska Office of Boating Safety to receive the 2010 Compass Award, which recognizes a member agency's programs,

efforts or initiatives that have truly enhanced our nation's safety and security and serve as a model to follow. The Alaska Office of Boating Safety was established by Department Order within the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation in June 1998. The Alaska Boating Safety Act was introduced in the 1999 legislative session and signed into law on May 11, 2000, making Alaska the last state to establish a state boating safety program.

In little more than a decade, the Alaska Office of Boating Safety has made great strides in addressing the challenges presented by the cold-water boating environment and culturally diverse boating populations. Through a wide range of safety initiatives and other programs, the Alaska Office of Boating Safety has decreased boating deaths in Alaska by 20 percent over the past decade.

Lifetime Achievement Award

NASBLA President West bestowed two Lifetime Achievement Awards:

- Pam Dillon joined the Ohio Department of Natural Resources in 1976 as a park naturalist aide. In 1977, she became a watercraft officer with the department. After a promotion, she served as the division's education administrator for a number of years. In 1996 she was appointed deputy chief and held that position until 2002. Dillon then became executive director of the American Canoe Association and worked with the ACA for the next five



John Malatak, U.S. Coast Guard, and Pam Dillon, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Lifetime Achievement Award

Dillon has been very involved with NASBLA's Education & Awareness Committee throughout her career. She has also been a member of the Coast Guard's National Boating Safety Advisory Council and has served on a number of national boards, including the Future Fisherman Foundation, Paddlesport Industry Association and the International Whitewater Hall of Fame.

- John Malatak has been involved in boating and water safety for over 40 years. In that time, he has been a key figure in boating safety programs in more than ten national organizations, contributing significantly to safer boating on both a professional and a personal level. He has been awarded many prestigious awards for his work.

As chief of the Program Operations Branch for the U.S. Coast Guard's Boating Safety Division, Malatak serves to coordinate a number of aspects of the National Recreational Boating Safety Program. He has taught and continues to teach numerous boating safety courses, ranging from general boating and water safety as a volunteer for several national organizations to more advanced safety topics such as Coastal Navigation and Search and Rescue as a Boating Safety Master Instructor.

National Boating Safety Leadership Award

Major General Don Riley with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was selected to receive the 2010 William B. Garner National Boating Safety Leadership Award in appreciation of his strong support of

years. In October 2007, she returned to the Ohio DNR's Watercraft Division as division chief and boating law administrator.

boating safety.

Major General Riley was instrumental in designating four U.S. Army Corps of Engineers lakes in northern Mississippi to participate in a three-year mandatory life jacket wear test program beginning in May 2009. This program was designed to determine whether the additional life jacket requirements would improve wear rates among water-based recreation user groups and consequently decrease water-related fatalities. After extensive review, the national data indicated public fatalities most often occur in accidents involving small classes of vessels (under 26 feet) and swimmers in non-designated swim areas. The results since the wear requirement was implemented show a 72 percent average adult wear rate on all four lakes in the district.

Innovations in Technology Award

The Alabama Marine Police received the 2010 Innovations in Technology Award for its Conservation Officer



Bob Huffaker, Alabama Marine Police, Innovations in Technology Award

Operations Reporting System. NASBLA, in conjunction with its Mission Partner, Boat Ed, developed the Innovations in Technology Award to

recognize programs or initiatives that demonstrate the highest level of innovation leading to advances in boating safety.

Alabama's reporting system is an evolving online reporting system utilized by enforcement officers to document their daily activities, vehicle usage, and associated costs and other division-specific information. The information entered into the system generates financial reports and weekly, monthly and annual statistics which are turned into useful reports used at all levels, including the fleet manager, accounting and personnel sections and radio dispatch. 🌟

In the Line of Duty

Deadly dangers patrolling our waterways

By Craig W. Floyd

The names were solemnly read one by one in order of the state in which they served. "From the State of Alabama, Loyd C. Hays, Frank Stewart Jr., Walter E. Sawyer . . . From the State of Wyoming, Clifford Dean Stevens, Kirk D. Inberg."

It was the 50th anniversary conference of the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA). To commemorate this special anniversary, about 250 boating law administrators, education specialists, marine patrol officers and their spouses assembled in Honolulu, Hawaii. As part of the opening ceremonies, they wanted to memorialize the 128 natural resources officers and U.S. Coast Guardsmen who had been killed in law enforcement service during NASBLA's 50-year existence.

I had accompanied my wife, Veronica, chair of the National Safe Boating Council, on the trip to the conference. For me, it was a vacation, but I very much wanted to be a part of the memorial service to this special group of fallen American heroes. John Johnson, NASBLA's Executive Director, graciously arranged for me to speak before the honor roll of fallen officers was read.

Given that it was September 11, 2010, I opened my remarks with a special tribute to the 72 law enforcement officers who were killed in the terrorist attacks of 9/11 - the deadliest day in law enforcement history. I told them about a friend of mine, Scott Williamson, a New York City police officer, who had lost many friends on that fateful day.

When I visited with Scott at Ground Zero one week after the attacks, he said, "There is one thought that gives me comfort at this difficult time. Those officers were right where they wanted to be, doing exactly what they wanted to be doing. They lived for

that moment when they could help innocent people in need, regardless of the dangers involved." Certainly, the same could be said about the 128 natural resources officers and U.S. Coast Guardsmen who had given their lives in the name of public safety.

Just the day before the memorial service, my wife and I had visited Pearl Harbor where some 2,400 members of our military were killed when the Japanese planes attacked on the morning of December 7, 1941. We took a short boat ride out to the USS Arizona Memorial, which honors the 1,177 lives that were lost when the battleship was sunk by Japanese bombers. It is a powerful memorial, especially knowing that the remains of those who died that day are still entombed in the ship's bowels directly below the monument. Oil from the ship still leaks to the surface some 70 years later and the memorial includes all of the names of each of those who perished.

The visit reminded me that there really is no difference between the sacrifices made by our sailors and soldiers, and the sacrifices made by our law enforcement professionals. Both groups of patriots

stand ready to risk their own lives for the safety and security of their nation. The conduct and service of those who serve in the military and law enforcement define the words inscribed on the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, D.C., "In valor there is hope."

Those words certainly rang out when I heard the name of a fallen California harbor patrol officer read. Paul Korber was a strong swimmer and a dedicated law enforcement officer. He worked for the Ventura, California, Harbor Patrol. On March 15, 1998, Officer Korber received a call for help. Two young boys and their mother had been caught in an ocean rip tide and were struggling for their lives.

When efforts to reach the family by boat failed due to rough seas, Officer Korber dove in to make the rescue. He reached the family and managed to keep them afloat long enough for lifeguards to get them to safety. But, Officer Korber was not so lucky. Tossed into a jetty by the six-foot waves, he became disoriented and drowned. Paul Korber, an 11-year veteran of the department, saved three lives that day...

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and in doing so, he gave up his own.

Similar stories could be told about any one of the other 128 officers honored by NASBLA for making the supreme sacrifice. Kentucky Conservation Officer Denver Tabor drowned in 1973 while trying to save a young boy who fell overboard from a boat. Sergeant Karl Kelley of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources suffered the same tragic fate in 1998 while trying to rescue two of his colleagues who had fallen into swirling waters during a dangerous training exercise. In 2007, Texas Game Warden Justin Hurst responded to back up a colleague who was pursuing an illegal hunting suspect. A dangerous chase took place through two counties at speeds exceeding 100 miles per hour before the suspect engaged the officers in a fierce gun battle that claimed the life of Game Warden Hurst.

Like so many of their law enforcement colleagues, natural resources and boating safety police are often the victims of senseless attacks. Just ask the officers serving with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission. They can tell you the story of Wildlife Officer Dewey McCall who, in 1971, was shot to death after issuing a man a citation for an undersized fish. No law enforcement assignment can ever be considered routine, but that is especially true when working on our nation's waterways. In 1966, Maryland Natural Resources Police Officer George T. Mullikin suffered a fatal heart attack while

scuba diving on the job. In 1990, Texas Game Wardens Franklin Hill and William Decker drowned when their patrol boat struck a submerged tree stump. In January 1951, Inspector Otis J. Whan of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Police was supervising a commercial fishing expedition on the Mississippi River. The river was frozen,

When they were returning to shore, the vehicle Inspector Whan was in drove over an air pocket with only two inches of ice. His vehicle plunged into the icy river and he died along with two other occupants.

Among the names read at the NASBLA memorial service was that of Darrell Carmikle, the most recent natural resources police officer to have his name added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. He served with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. On November 16, 2008, he was patrolling in a helicopter in an attempt to spot nighttime hunting violators who were shining lights at deer to freeze them in their tracks. When the suspects were spotted, the helicopter moved in closer and crash landed, killing Officer Carmikle.

One of Officer Carmikle's colleagues commented on his death, saying, "Being a wildlife officer is a very dangerous job. We're trained for just about everything, but in this instance it was out of the officer's control."

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The conduct and
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National Law
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so instead of using boats, the fishermen drove their cars and trucks out on the thick ice and fished with nets.

Craig W. Floyd is chairman of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund. Visit <http://www.nleomf.com> for more information about law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty.

IN THE LINE OF DUTY

The following are the names of the 128 natural resources officers and U.S. Coast Guardsmen who died in law enforcement service during NASBLA's first 50 years. This list was read aloud by state boating law administrators during a Fallen Officer Remembrance ceremony at NASBLA's conference in September 2010.

Natural Resource Officers and U.S. Coast Guard

Name	Date of Death	RANK	Department
LOYD C HAYS	05/01/1964	Conservation Officer	Alabama Conservation, Game & Fish Division
FRANK STEWART JR	12/24/1978	Conservation Officer	Alabama Conservation, Game & Fish Division
WALTER E SAWYER	12/07/1966	Marine Patrolman	Alabama Div. of Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries
CECIL C CHATMAN	11/28/1982	Conservation Officer	Alabama Div. of Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries
JAMES C VINES	01/26/1985	Officer	Alabama Div. of Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries
JIMMY DEAN HUTTO	03/25/2002	Game Officer	Alabama Div. of Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries
JAMES LANSFORD HORNER JR	06/22/2003	Conservation Officer	Alabama Div. of Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries
NATHAN BENJAMIN MIMS	11/11/2008	Conservation Officer	Alabama Div. of Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries
JAMES A MOEN	06/25/2001	Trooper Pilot	Alaska State Troopers, Fish & Wildlife Protection
JOHN DAVID STIMSON	01/14/1983	Sergeant	Alaska State Troopers, Fish & Wildlife Protection
DAVID C CHURCHILL	09/16/1998	Sergeant	Alaska State Troopers, Fish & Wildlife Protection
DARRELL CARMIKLE	11/16/2008	Officer	Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
ALLEN R SEVERSON	02/07/1980	Wildlife Manager	Arizona Game & Fish Department
ESTEVAN ORTIZ ESCOBEDO	01/04/1994	Wildlife Manager	Arizona Game & Fish Department
HAROLD L EDGINGTON	09/30/1979	Patrolman	Los Angeles County, California, Harbor Patrol
PAUL D KORBER	03/15/1998	Harbor Patrol Office	Ventura Port District, California, Harbor Patrol
PHILIP K MASON	09/03/2001	District Wildlife	Colorado Department of Natural Resources
JAMES HOWARD OLTERMAN	09/04/2002	Sr. Terrestrial	Colorado Department of Natural Resources
EDGAR ALLEN CULBERTSON	04/30/1967	Petty Officer First	U.S. Coast Guard
MATTHEW HAROLD BAKER	08/24/1990	Coast Guard Officer	U.S. Coast Guard
CRAIG ERIC LERNER	08/24/1990	Coast Guard Officer	U.S. Coast Guard
PAUL ERIK PERLT	08/24/1990	Coast Guard Officer	U.S. Coast Guard
DUANE ELMER STENBAK	08/24/1990	Coast Guard Officer	U.S. Coast Guard
JONATHAN D SCOTCHMER	01/09/1995	Coast Guardsman	U.S. Coast Guard
SCOTT JAMES CHISM	03/24/2001	Petty Officer Second	U.S. Coast Guard
CHRISTOPHER EVERETT FERREBY	03/24/2001	Seaman	U.S. Coast Guard
RONALD ALAN GILL JR	03/25/2007	Port Security Officer	U.S. Coast Guard
MARY ELLEN MONAGHAN	01/09/1989	Special Agent	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
DOUGLAS JOHN MORRIS	01/28/1990	Special Agent	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
RICHARD JERRY GUADAGNO	09/11/2001	Refuge Manager	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
THOMAS PATRICK CLOHERTY	12/08/2005	Special Agent	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
MARVIN J ALBRITTON	08/19/1966	Wildlife Officer	Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission
JIMMY THOMPSON	06/25/1968	Wildlife Officer	Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission
LEON WALKER	08/13/1970	Wildlife Officer	Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission
HARRY CHARLES CHAPIN	11/05/1972	Sergeant	Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission
JAMES L COOK	12/08/1972	Wildlife Officer	Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission
DANESE BYRON CROWDER	05/03/1974	Wildlife Officer	Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission
MARGARET E PARK	12/13/1984	Wildlife Officer	Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission
RAY LYNN BARNES	11/21/1987	Wildlife Officer	Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission
ROY R BURNSED	10/26/2001	Law Enforcement	Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission
CHARLES T RANDALL	10/28/2001	Law Enforcement	Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission
DELMAR H TEAGAN	04/13/2007	Lieutenant	Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission
MICHELLE A LAWLESS	10/27/2007	Police Officer	Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission
WILLIAM EARL HOBBS	7/21/1967	Ranger	Georgia Department of Natural Resources
ROCKY DAREN WAINWRIGHT	08/19/1999	Corporal	Georgia Department of Natural Resources
ROBERT H ELLIOTT	07/15/1970	Inspector	Illinois Department of Natural Resources & Conservation
EUGENE ALLEN	11/17/1972	Inspector I	Illinois Department of Natural Resources & Conservation
LORING CARR	11/17/1972	Inspector	Illinois Department of Natural Resources & Conservation
JAMES DALLAS PITZER	01/01/1961	Conservation Officer	Indiana Department of Natural Resources
THOMAS JAY DENISTON	10/16/1990	Officer	Indiana Department of Natural Resources
KARL EUGENE KELLEY	04/17/1998	First Sergeant	Indiana Department of Natural Resources
ELMER LEON NONNAST	05/08/1974	Game Warden	Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks
LUKE D NIHART	06/26/2010	Natural Resources	Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks
DENVER TABOR	07/20/1973	Conservation Officer	Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources
ROBERT C BANKER	03/19/1987	Conservation Officer	Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources
DOUGLAS WAYNE BRYANT	05/19/2003	Officer	Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources
KENNETH DALE AYCOCK	07/06/1991	Agent	Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
RICKY DODGE	01/20/1992	Agent	Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
LEON HENDERSON JR	03/30/1996	Senior Agent	Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
JOHN M GARLINGTON	02/10/2000	Captain	Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
JIM ROBYN BENNET MATKIN	03/02/2005	Senior Agent	Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries

JOHN J JORDAN	12/06/1974	Patrolman	Port of New Orleans Harbor, Louisiana, P.D.
R LYLE FROST JR	07/01/1968	Game Warden	Maine Inland Fisheries & Wildlife - Warden Service
RICHARD E VARNEY	09/27/1972	Game Warden Pilot	Maine Inland Fisheries & Wildlife - Warden Service
WILLIAM F HANRAHAN	11/21/1992	Game Warden	Maine Inland Fisheries & Wildlife - Warden Service
CHARLES W RIDER	11/07/1963	Officer	Maryland Department of Natural Resources
GEORGE T MULLIKIN	04/01/1966	Officer	Maryland Department of Natural Resources
JOSEPH CARR	04/13/1978	National Park Ranger	Maryland Department of Natural Resources
HARRY L GEORGE	10/24/1978	Chief of Police	Maryland Department of Natural Resources
GERALD F WELLING	09/10/1972	Conservation Officer	Michigan Department of Natural Resources
RONALD E SHAGER	02/22/1967	Conservation Officer	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
GILMER FRED KEELER	04/21/1968	Conservation Officer	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
RUSSELL JOHN NELSON	09/28/1975	Conservation Officer	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
GRANT S COYOUR	06/11/1999	Conservation Officer	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
WILLIE A SHINGLER	11/13/1962	Game Warden	Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks
TED SLOAN	01/01/1967	Conservation Officer	Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks
JAMES S WOOD	10/21/1984	Lake Manager	Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks
HILTON H SHOEMAKE	12/26/1990	Lake Manager	Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks
MICHAEL ANTHONY ANDREWS	11/11/2002	Master Sergeant	Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks
JOHN C THOMPSON	11/10/1960	Game Warden	Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks
I L TODD	12/27/1967	Game Warden	Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks
EUGENE SARA	01/07/1974	Game Warden	Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks
DELBERT E BLOOM	06/02/1979	Game Warden	Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks
ROBERT M MAY	12/06/1988	Game Warden	Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks
AMOS HORROCKS	05/26/1963	Conservation Officer	New Jersey Division of Fish, Game & Wildlife
BENNING W DeLaMATER	06/24/1961	Game Protector	New York Department of Environmental Conservation
RAYMOND L MURRAY	10/09/1970	Forest Ranger	New York Department of Environmental Conservation
WILLIAM BECKER	03/11/1981	Conservation Officer	New York Department of Environmental Conservation
JOHN O EDWARDS	08/03/1963	Wildlife Officer	North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
DEWEY H McCALL	09/05/1971	Wildlife Officer	North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
TROY M SIGMON	09/01/1978	Wildlife Officer	North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
LLOYD O MAYSE	11/27/1980	Officer	North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
WILLIAM A WILLIAMSON	12/04/1985	Wildlife Officer	North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
CHARLES PULVER	11/13/1995	District Game	North Dakota Game & Fish Enforcement Division
LARRY ALLEN HART	12/07/1991	Wildlife Officer	Ohio Department of Natural Resources
MELVIN L GAR RISON	12/26/1971	Park Ranger	Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation
KENNETH OMAR BETANCOURT-CAMACHO	03/23/2010	Ranger	Puerto Rico Department of Natural Resources
FELIX RODRIGUEZ-GOMEZ	03/23/2010	Ranger	Puerto Rico Department of Natural Resources
A C CAMPBELL	12/23/1969	Game Warden	South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
CHARLES LEVON McNEILL	10/03/1974	Conservation Officer	South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
DOYLE HAYES HILL	01/01/1975	Corporal	South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
RAY G MOORE	11/01/1975	Captain	South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
ROBERT D SADLER	05/19/1982	Corporal	South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
GEORGE DON PEELER	02/26/1989	Corporal	South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
LEROY MALLETT DANTZLER	12/11/1991	Corporal	South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
JOHN DAVID MURPHREE	12/08/1963	Game Warden	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
JOE M EVANS	05/06/1965	Game Warden	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
LLOYD DEAN GUSTIN	03/25/1968	Game Warden	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
RONNIE L GERMANY	07/29/1973	Game Warden	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
JAMES EUGENE DAUGHTREY JR	12/08/1978	Game Warden	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
WILLIAM B DECKER	05/28/1990	Game Warden	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
FRANKLIN BRUCE HILL	05/28/1990	Game Warden	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
MICHAEL CHARLES PAULING	08/02/2001	Game Warden	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
WESLEY WARREN WAGSTAFF	08/05/2003	Game Warden	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
JUSTIN PHILIP HURST	03/17/2007	State Game Warden	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
TEYRAN MICAH PATTERSON	05/30/2007	State Game Warden	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
GEORGE HAROLD WHATLEY JR	10/10/2008	Game Warden	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
CHARLES GILBERT PORTER	05/02/1970	Conservation Officer	Utah Division of Wildlife
JON CHRISTOPHER DRAPER	01/25/2004	Conservation Officer	Utah Division of Wildlife
ARNOLD J MAGOON	04/27/1978	Game Warden	Vermont Department of Fish & Wildlife
NELSON ONEPENNEE	04/11/1980	Game Warden	Washington Department of Wildlife
TERRY L HOFFER	11/10/1984	Wildlife Agent	Washington Department of Wildlife
WESLEY C FRAME JR	11/10/1978	Conservation Officer	West Virginia Department of Natural Resources
ROBERT B MARKLE	05/08/1966	Conservation	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
NEIL L LaFAVE	09/24/1971	Game Technician	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
ANDREW A KRAKOW	06/05/1990	Conservation	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
PATRICK DOUGLAS WARNER	05/24/1993	Conservation	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
CLIFFORD DEAN STEVENS	06/24/1983	Wildlife Officer	Wyoming Department of Game & Fish
KIRK D INBERG	10/16/1991	Game Warden	Wyoming Department of Game & Fish

Information provided by the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund.

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Stars on the water

2010 Boating Law Enforcement Officer of the Year

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

The National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) began awarding the Boating Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award in 2000 to recognize outstanding boating law enforcement officers. Each state selects a boating law enforcement officer. These officers then compete for one of three regional awards. The three regional officers of the year then vie for the national award. This year we had candidates from 42 states and territories nominated for this program. The officers described in the following pages represent the top boating law enforcement officers in the nation.



The Boating Officer of the Year Program is generously sponsored by Revere Survival Products (<http://www.reveresupply.com>).

"The National Association of State Boating Law Administrators is pleased and proud to partner with Revere Supply Company to recognize the outstanding marine patrol officers across the country," said John M. Johnson, NASBLA executive director. "Many thanks to Revere for their support in our most important recognition program. The company's support helps us fulfill one of our critical missions in providing training and development programs for the officer on the water."



Revere Survival Products, also known as Revere Supply Inc., has exclusively been a family-owned business beginning in 1936, now on their fourth generation of

ownership. The company has routinely celebrated a vast number of awards and honors for their life-saving supplies and equipment. Their product line includes life rafts, emergency locator beacons, inherently buoyant and inflatable PFDs – as well as other safety and rescue products. Revere's distributor base can be found in over 20 U.S. states, as well as countries in Europe, South America, the Caribbean and Asia.

Arizona officer named 2010 Boating Officer of the Year

Sergeant Doug Schuster is a 21-year veteran with the Mohave County Sheriff's Office. For the last 13 years he has served as Boating Safety Supervisor on Lake Havasu, one of the busiest waterways in North America. Sgt. Schuster's multi-program approach to boating safety is a huge part of the reason Lake Havasu and other areas under his area of responsibility are experiencing across-the-board declines in boat accidents.

Sgt. Schuster has dedicated his professional career to promoting and advocating boating safety, logging well over 5000 hours at the helm.

Drawing upon his well-earned experience, he has created exceptional patrol procedures that have proven to be the most effective strategies in reducing boating accidents and drownings while the number of boaters on Lake Havasu continues to increase.

The Mohave County Sheriff's Office Boating Safety Division is consistently among the state's leaders in alcohol-related arrests on the water. This is due in no small part to Sgt. Schuster's leadership. He has personally made over 300 arrests for impaired operation of a watercraft and strongly motivates his personnel to ag-

gressively enforce alcohol violations, including 68 Division arrests in 2009. Sgt. Schuster's work unit continually leads all Arizona watercraft law enforcement agencies in operating under the influence (OUI) arrests. Sgt. Schuster leads by example and readily shares his knowledge and experience with other officers.

Boating safety education is also a top priority for Sgt. Schuster. In an effort to prevent future tragedies, Sgt. Schuster is dedicated to the proactive approach of educating elementary age students. He has implemented a training program for the three local schools and every year he teaches boating

safety to over 700 elementary schoolchildren. To enhance this effort, Sgt. Schuster secured grant funding to purchase educational materials to further the educational efforts of the sheriff's office. When not in the school system teaching the community's youth, Sgt. Schuster is very active in educating the adult community. Each year he attends safety fairs, parades and other events promoting boating safety.

Sgt. Schuster oversees the Mohave County Sheriff Volunteer Boating Safety Program comprised of over 70 volunteer boating safety personnel who assist deputies, search for missing boaters and swimmers, and help transport accident

victims to on-shore emergency medical teams. He ensures the volunteers complete a training program. His superb coordination and supervision of this program serves as an effective force multiplier for the Mohave County Sheriff's Office and has proven to be an invaluable tool in promoting the boating safety message with little or no direct cost to his agency.

Sgt. Schuster has developed a strong working rapport with allied agencies of Arizona and surrounding states. This partnership reflects a true interagency collaborative effort that transcends jurisdictional boundaries and continues to address the twin goals of

proactive enforcement and boating safety.

Throughout his career with the Sheriff's Office, Sgt. Schuster has been an exemplary officer and has received numerous awards and honors. In 2008, he was the Arizona Watercraft Officer of the Year for his commitment to recreational boating safety excellence. In addition, a few years ago, he received the highest honor from the Mohave County Sheriff's Office - the Life Saving Award - for risking his own well-being when he jumped without hesitation into frigid waters to rescue a nine-year-old boy who was trapped in a capsized, sinking boat.



Sgt. Doug Schuster with the Mohave County Sheriff's Office (center) received the national Boating Officer of the Year Award from NASBLA President Terry West (left). Scott Swanby with Revere Supply, sponsor of the annual award, was also present at the awards ceremony held during NASBLA's 51st conference.

Regional Boating Officers of the Year

Northern Region Boating Officer of the Year

Working for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Conservation Officer Aaron Kahre patrols on a large portion of 14,000-acre Lake Minnetonka – the state’s busiest recreational boating lake – and 25 other lakes and rivers.

Officer Kahre’s enforcement effort on the water and in other areas has been outstanding. In 2009 he worked 312 boating safety hours, double the number of required goal hours, making more officer contacts than any other officer in his district. He wrote or assisted with nine boating while intoxicated (BWI) arrests, and he worked with newer officers to improve their comfort level on BWI cases. Officer Kahre does an excellent job of varying his work schedule to maximize his enforcement efforts. He worked numerous nights, weekends and holiday hours on the water and volunteered for extra boating detail hours to help combat drug and alcohol problems on the water.

Officer Kahre enforces a variety of boating laws, giving extra effort toward enforcing noise and personal watercraft regulations, which affect the quality of life for residents and other users. He organized or has been the lead officer on numerous boating enforcement projects targeting BWI, careless boating and other violations on Lake Minnetonka.

Officer Kahre is always willing to lend assistance, and he works well with other agencies. He volunteered and worked the busy Lumberjack Days and the Miss Croix poker run events, worked a boating safety detail on Red Lake, and filled in on patrol for vacant stations. He worked with the U.S. Secret Service during several Presidential/Vice Presidential or VIP visits to the Twin Cities. He

works closely with the Hennepin County Sheriff’s Water Patrol and has assisted them with accident situations and body recoveries.

When the I-35W Mississippi River Bridge collapsed in Minneapolis on August 1, 2007, DNR officers and county sheriff’s deputies were charged with maintaining security on the water for the 23 days following the incident. Officer Kahre volunteered to be on site for long days, assisting in the effort to make sure all of the victims of the bridge collapse could be located, and their families could receive the closure they needed.

Officer Kahre makes a special effort to visit schools, civic groups and sporting organizations to present boating safety information. He actively supports the PFD Panda Awards Program for kids, in which kids on the water who are wearing their life jackets receive a certificate that includes a coupon for a free ice cream cone or burger, thanks to program partner, Dairy Queen International. He also supports the “Kids Don’t Float” campaign on Lake Minnetonka and works with local youth through the community center and local schools, and even provided numerous “ride-a-longs” to interested youth.



Conservation Officer
Aaron Kahre
Department of
Natural Resources
Minnesota

Southern Region Boating Officer of the Year



Master Officer
Robert Wayne
Wildlife Resources
Commission
North Carolina

An enforcement officer with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, Master Officer Robert Wayne has been a leader in boating enforcement, accident investigation, and search and rescue.

In 2009 he had 214 boating enforcement actions, including issuing 44 citations and 170 warnings for boating-related violations while checking 690 boats. Officer Wayne also used his newly acquired boating under the influence (BUI) detection training, making five arrests for impaired operation and receiving convictions on all five.

Officer Wayne had three search and rescue missions in which all subjects were taken to safety. In one incident, he was the reason two duck hunters are alive today. In late January, two waterfowl hunters left their buddy on the shoreline and headed out in the boat to pick up decoys. The air and water temperatures were in the low 30s and the wind was blowing 30-40 knots. As the pair began taking up gang rigs of decoys, a line got caught in the propeller. The boat took a wave over the stern. The pair managed to get on top of a small portion of the vessel left sticking out of the water, and their friend on

shore called 911. After being contacted and advised of the situation, Officer Wayne immediately got on the phone. Due to his extensive knowledge of the area, he knew exactly what duck guides and oystermen operated in that area and contacted them to assist with the rescue. After driving to his house to get his boat, Officer Wayne was first on scene and navigated his vessel so that others could pull the men from the freezing water. Neither wore a life jacket and would not have been able to survive much longer. They were treated by EMS personnel and released. Officer Wayne went back into rough water to retrieve much of their gear.

Officer Wayne gave 36 boating safety programs in 2009. He set up booths at festivals and schools, County 4-H and Boy Scout meetings and distributed safety materials while answering boating questions from the public. He certified numerous students in a NASBLA-approved boating safety course and educated children in local schools with his own programs demonstrating proper use of life jackets. He also does an eye-opening demonstration on the perils of hypothermia using ice water and willing volunteers. His outreach has undoubtedly saved many people from getting citations and has surely saved lives.

Officer Wayne has worked closely with local law enforcement, county EMS and the U.S. Coast Guard during search and rescue and boat accident investigations. He has built a good rapport with Hyde County Schools and 4-H Programs to promote boating safety in his community.

2010 Boating Officers of the Year

NORTHERN REGION



EnCon Police Officer Paul Hilli
Department of Environmental Protection
Connecticut

In 1998 the State EnCon Police formed the Boating Accident Reconstruction Unit (BARU). EnCon Police Officer (EPO) Paul Hilli joined the team and immediately began his training. Some of the training EPO Hilli has attended includes, Underwriters Laboratories boating crash investigation phase one and two, basic, intermediate, and advanced crime scene investigation, and digital photography school. EPO Hilli along with his boating accident expertise is also one of our lead EnCon Police photographers.

EPO Hilli is involved with every major BARU event in the state of Connecticut that involves serious physical injury or death. In the last several years he was involved in investigating fourteen boating related deaths that occurred on Connecticut waterways. In one case EPO Hilli assisted the FBI with a teenager that went missing from a canoe. The disappearance of the teenager was ruled suspicious at the time. This case was then solved and the incident was ruled a drowning. Another high profile case involved a double fatality that involved a bass boat and pleasure craft. Both vessels sustained heavy damage from the crash. This case took hours of methodical investigative work. The investigation revealed contributing factors included alcohol, speed and failure to follow rules of the road.

EPO Hilli has a drive and passion for investigative work and is a consummate professional. EPO Hilli is often sought out by his peers looking for guidance with BARU cases, and continues to seek out training opportunities.



Senior Corporal Casey Zolper
Department of Natural Resources & Environmental Control
Delaware

During the past year, Fish & Wildlife Agent Casey Zolper has excelled in all aspects of Marine Police work.

Sr. Cpl. Zolper logged in 200 hours aboard patrol boats and even more time performing

land based enforcement of boating statues, rules and regulations this year. Sr. Cpl. Zolper's visible, uniformed presence resulted in increased compliance by those in the boating community. Sr. Cpl. Zolper arrested seven intoxicated vessel operators for Boating Under the Influence of alcohol and was publicly recognized at a ceremony hosted by Mothers Against Drunk Driving. Sr. Cpl. Zolper provided training on O.U.I. detection and enforcement to the entire F&W Enforcement Section. Sr. Cpl. Zolper's enforcement efforts also resulted in numerous citations for other boating violations including lack of safety equipment and PFDs, vessel operation, and registration and certification. Sr. Cpl. Zolper volunteered to take part in statewide special operations related to boating safety and O.U.I. checkpoints on weekends of anticipated increased recreational boating activity. Sr. Cpl. Zolper identified the areas in his assigned sector that would be most productive for special operations and also coordinated the patrols with his fellow Agents.

Sr. Cpl. Zolper's marine enforcement efforts this year have also included his involvement in the Special Response Team's Homeland Security missions. Sr. Cpl. Zolper was a member of the Team dispatched to provide marine based security during President Obama's visit to Wilmington. Sr. Cpl. Zolper also performed as a member of a Strike Team during Operation VIPR, a multi-agency effort at deterring possible terrorist threats to the Cape May-Lewes Ferry.

In addition to his efforts in marine enforcement, Sr. Cpl. Zolper has continued to maintain the Section's K-9 unit and was instrumental in locating evidence for not only Fish & Wildlife cases, but also for other agencies.



Conservation Police Officer II Ray Wichus
Department of Natural Resources
Illinois

Throughout CPO Ray Wichus's 22-year career, boating enforcement and boating education have been top priorities. CPO Wichus is assigned to Piatt County, approximately 15 minutes from Clinton Lake, the largest Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) reservoir in the state. In 2009, he made 36 boating arrests and issued numerous written warnings during his patrols on Clinton Lake.

CPO Wichus was solely responsible for the recovery of a stolen boat out of the Chicago area. During a routine inspection of the watercraft, he noticed problems with the hull identification number (HIN). Upon investigation, he determined that the boat had been stolen. The owner was unaware that his boat was missing until being contacted by CPO Wichus. The boat

was seized and the investigation netted 13 total charges, four of which were felony charges.

Boating safety education has always been a strong point for CPO Wichus. Every year he gives boating/water safety talks throughout his district, reaching hundreds of kids annually. Another yearly boat safety presentation CPO Wichus volunteers for is to the Monticello Grade School's fifth-grade class. He is also very busy instructing boating safety classes.

In 2009, CPO Wichus had an excellent year in boating enforcement. As one of the primary patrol boat operators, CPO Wichus continues to make OUI enforcement a priority. He participated in the arrest of a boat operator under the influence of drugs as well as three arrests for boat operators under the influence of alcohol.

CPO Wichus has investigated or assisted in the investigation of approximately 15 boating-related fatalities or serious bodily injury accidents over the course of his career. His experience and knowledge in these types of investigations are a tremendous resource to the officers in his district. One of his investigations led to the conviction of a boat operator for involuntary manslaughter and reckless conduct. This operator was sentenced to two years in prison.



Officer Matthew Tholen
Department of Natural Resources
Indiana

Officer Matthew Tholen patrols lakes Freeman and Shafer, two extremely busy waterways. He also spends countless hours on rivers in north-central Indiana, demonstrating his versatility as a boating enforcement officer and his skill at boat operation. He had 53 boating arrests and warnings during the 2009 boating season.

Officer Tholen has a heart for education. He enjoys conducting classes and attending public appearances that provide a safety message to the public. He conducted 41 education classes and had a total of 101 public appearances in 2009. Officer Tholen was also very active in the Wear It Indiana Program, volunteering to man information booths at area waterways during busy weekends to answer questions and concerns from the boating public.

Officer Tholen has also volunteered to serve as president of the Indiana Conservation Officers Organization (ICOO). He is the driving force behind the ICOO kids camp, a weeklong camp that introduces about 100 kids annually to outdoor sports such as hunting, camping and boating.

During the Oakdale flood that exceeded the 100-year level Officer Tholen worked in ex-

tremely hazardous conditions to get the people out of their flooded homes. He operated his 16 ft. johnboat in hazardous floodwaters with dangerous current to get to the residents that lived along the Tippecanoe River below the Oakdale dam. He rescued approximately 18 people and one dog. Officer Tholen is one of those officers that, if contacted anytime on duty or off, will do everything in his power to complete the mission assigned to him.

Officer Tholen is a joy to work with. He is always upbeat, positive and looks for the bright side of each situation. He is a family man who, when not working, enjoys hunting, fishing, and camping with his family. Officer Tholen is a glowing example of what public safety officers should aspire to be.



**Conservation Officer
Jeff Harrison**
Department of Natural Resources
Iowa

Jeff Harrison has been a conservation officer with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources for six years. Proactive toward law enforcement and safety, he does an excellent job representing the department. Prior to being a conservation officer, he was a water patrol officer on the Mississippi River. He also worked for the Scott County Conservation Department and served in the military.

In 2009 Officer Harrison orchestrated Operation Dry Water for the Southeast District of Iowa and coordinated with the Illinois Department of Conservation, the U.S. Coast Guard, the Iowa State Patrol and other conservation officers of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. He also contacted the local media groups to promote safe boating and Operation Dry Water, providing sound bites on safety and offering ride-alongs. Due to Officer Harrison's efforts, Southeast Iowa's Operation Dry Water was an excellent project resulting in 556 boater contacts and 31 citations and warnings issued, with positive feedback from the media and public.

Officer Harrison sees the importance of visual enforcement and training. During 2009 he spent time with two water patrol officers assigned to the Mississippi River. He made sure that the seasonal officers were given guidance on how to conduct a boat stop, how to speak to the recreational users and how to issue citations when warranted. He also made sure that at least once a week he was riding in a marked patrol boat with a seasonal officer, using the time to educate not only the public but also potential full-time officers on boating safety.

Officer Harrison had eight boating-related citations and 35 fishing citations along the

Mississippi River in 2009, along with 252 vessel contacts and 350 fishing contacts. He provided three boat safety presentations to the public and had numerous media contacts in print, radio and TV spreading the message of safe boating.



**Natural Resource Officer
Dave Adams**
Department of Wildlife & Parks
Kansas

With over 30 years of experience, Officer Dave Adams has always been willing to take on new tasks, developing a positive reputation for assisting his fellow officers when needed. His work in promoting water safety, boater education, and enforcement of Kansas boating laws and regulations is highly praised by department employees.

Natural Resource Officer Adams works an area that includes two federal reservoirs just south of Topeka: 7000-acre Melvern Reservoir, and 4000-acre Pomona Reservoir. During the summer of 2009, he was involved in over 10 recreational boating selective enforcements, which provided boating and water safety information to the public.

Officer Adams initiated and promoted participation in Operation Dry Water on Melvern Reservoir, resulting in the detection and arrest of several individuals boating under the influence (BUI) and the dissemination of BUI educational information to many other boat owners and operators. Throughout the summer of 2009, Officer Adams assisted other officers in BUI arrests and made several contacts and arrests as a single officer patrol.

During the summer of 2009, Officer Adams completed over 600 documented vessel inspections that were entered into the Department's database for statistical analysis. Inspections allow the officer to build a relationship with the boating public in a positive manner which has been demonstrated by Officer Adams over many situations where the outcome did not result in the issuance of a citation, but the result had the same effect.

As a self-defense, custody and control instructor, Officer Adams assisted with training newly hired officers, incorporating methods of officer safety in relation to boating safety vessel checks and boardings. He is always searching for ways to incorporate officer safety related ideas into the training of officers for their protection and the protection of the public as well.



**Marine Patrol Officer
Donaldson Boord**
Bureau of Marine Patrol
Maine

Marine Patrol Officer Donaldson Boord has been patrolling the coastal waters of mid-coast Maine since being hired in 2002. In 2008 he was assigned to the Boothbay Harbor Patrol. The Boothbay area has one of the highest levels of recreational boating activity in Maine. MPO Boord works diligently to accommodate the area's diverse coastal water user groups.

In 2009, MPO Boord logged over 500 hours underway on various patrol vessels and issued 89 citations, many dealing with boating safety. MPO Boord maintains a good working relationship with other law enforcement agencies including the U.S. Coast Guard, National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Customs, Maine State Police, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife as well as local police agencies.

MPO Boord shows initiative in his enforcement of operating under the influence (OUI) violations, routinely scheduling his workday to coincide with high activity levels. MPO Boord has led the Maine Marine Patrol in boating OUI arrests for the past two years and often focuses his efforts into times when these types of violations take place.

MPO Boord instructs other marine patrol officers in OUI enforcement and is a Maine Criminal Justice Academy certified self-defense instructor. According to his field supervisor Sgt. Rene Cloutier, "MPO Boord's dedication to boating safety issues has made a difference in the Boothbay Harbor area. He models a positive example of community policing. I feel he is an excellent candidate for this award."



**Officer
William Bilotta**
Environmental Police
Massachusetts

A veteran police officer with more than 25 years of service, Officer William Bilotta is the senior serving member of the Marine Theft Bureau with over a decade of investigating boat theft. As one of only two investigators assigned to this specialized unit within the agency, he is an invaluable asset in the recovery of stolen vessels and successful prosecution of marine theft cases. He is sought after as a reliable and immediate source of technical information by his co-workers and officers. Through his training in acid restoration,

2010 Boating Officers of the Year

tracing and manufacturer code identification he brings a wealth of expertise to his agency.

Officer Bilotta spearheaded the Massachusetts "Hot List" registry program that allows for immediate recognition and input of stolen vessels and ATVs into a statewide database used by registration offices. Through this innovation, registration employees have up-to-date access of stolen vessels preventing erroneous and criminal re-registration of vessels. This hotlist speeds up the ability of registration personnel to recognize questionable applications, better coordinating the communication received from over 351 cities and towns in Massachusetts.

Through his many successful investigations, Officer Bilotta has compiled a matrix based on specific geographic locations of criminals known to commit boat/ATV theft. This matrix immediately provides officers with a list of known suspects and associates aiding in the identification of persons of interest. He has been able to successfully track repeat offenders based on specific crime patterns and prior histories.

He has fostered many valuable contacts within the boat manufacturer community resulting in immediate access to information vital to his role as a Marine Theft Investigator. He has been able to educate manufacturer service personnel in providing information most sought by law enforcement. This exchange of information has maximized the quick receipt of relevant information and minimized prolonged requests.



Corporal Terry Short
Department of Natural Resources
Michigan

Corporal Terry Short has been assigned to Menominee County since being hired in 1997. During this time, he has been very involved in safe boating education, water emergency response and marine enforcement.

During his time as a field officer, Cpl. Short routinely logged over 400 hours a year for marine enforcement activities. Due to the short boating season in the Upper Peninsula waters of Northern Lake Michigan, this is no small feat.

Cpl. Short has responded to numerous calls of boaters in distress over his career. The most notable being when a 35-foot catamaran overturned throwing all five occupants in the water. Cpl. Short was the first vessel on scene. He positioned his 25-foot patrol boat between the pontoons of the vessel so that he was in a secure position to pull everyone aboard.

In June 2008, Cpl. Short was promoted to the position of Commercial Fish Enforcement Specialist. In 2009, he logged 538 hours of marine time, as well as numerous hours for patrolling the Great Lakes for commercial fishing activity.

In 2009, Cpl. Short worked in conjunction with the Coast Guard to redesign the buoy pattern marking the approach to the Cedar River State Harbor. Over the years, this harbor has experienced low use partially due to general confusion of mariners on how to enter the river mouth channel. Several boaters have run aground while trying to navigate through the area.

Most recently, Cpl. Short has been heavily involved in the grant writing process for homeland security monies for port security. Cpl. Short immersed himself in the project and went to extra lengths to understand the process and the details that were required. He was recognized as the point person that numerous other supervisors called and went to for assistance for writing their own grants.



Officer Russ Mort
Game & Parks Commission
Nebraska

Russ Mort is a senior officer with more than 25 years of experience within the Law Enforcement Division, stationed along the Missouri River in the southeastern Nebraska community of Nebraska City. Officer Mort's area of responsibility is two counties totaling over 1,000 acres, including 50 miles of Missouri River. He regularly works with officers from the Missouri Water Patrol and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources who also share this stretch of the Missouri River. Officer Mort routinely is detailed outside his home duty station to larger metropolitan recreational areas. He enjoys working along the Missouri River and the larger metropolitan lakes promoting boating safety. He is especially efficient in his efforts in boating under the influence (BUI) enforcement. He has led the state in BUI arrests for the past several years.

Officer Mort strove to improve his abilities in 2009 in organizing and scheduling three boating enforcement details along the Missouri River in his assigned area, one of which was a selective enforcement effort in coordination with Operation Dry Water. In addition, he has endeavored to further his skills in boating enforcement by requesting additional training, specifically in certified operation of a breath tester.

Officer Mort's enthusiasm toward boating enforcement has infectiously affected other officers as well; he is a leader within the division in his boating safety efforts.



Marine Patrol Officer Patrick I. Newby
Yates County Sheriff's Office
New York

On June 28, 2009, Officer Patrick Newby and his partner, seasoned officer Joe Prunoske, were patrolling on Keuka Lake, a 22-mile Y-shaped lake. The officers were dispatched to a 911 call near Keuka Lake State Park, on the northwest fork of the lake. A wake boarder had been struck by his towboat.

Marine Patrol Officers Prunoske and Newby arrived on scene in just two minutes. They found the wake boarder approximately a quarter mile from shore floating in an inverted position with his personal flotation device (PFD) torn from his body and his wake board still attached to his feet. The seriousness of the man's injuries was immediately apparent, ranging from severe lacerations to his back, left arm and hand to evisceration on his left side.

Officer Newby immediately secured his gear and jumped into the 100-foot-deep, blood-saturated water. He swam to the man and supported his upper body to keep him level and above water. Due to the extent of the man's injuries the officers could not retrieve the victim from the water by themselves. Officer Newby remained in the water stabilizing the victim while Officer Prunoske returned to shore to pick up EMS and fire department personnel.

Upon the return of Officer Prunoske with the local volunteers, an area volunteer EMT, Michael T. Healy, promptly entered the water. Officer Newby and EMT Healy immobilized the victim and secured him on a backboard while still in the water. Newby, Healy and other personnel on the patrol boat lifted the victim aboard. Officers Prunoske, Newby and emergency personnel transported the victim to shore and helped load him into an ambulance. The victim eventually made a full recovery, no doubt as a result of Officer Newby's efforts.



District Game Warden Courtney Sprenger
Game & Fish Department
North Dakota

Dedication, hard work and perseverance define Warden Courtney Sprenger. Since becoming a game warden for North Dakota in 2007, Sprenger's work ethic and professional drive have created a safer boating environment on waters in southwestern North Dakota. From the

Missouri River to Lake Tschida, Warden Sprenger has made her presence felt by dedicating long hours patrolling these waters.

The main body of water Warden Sprenger patrols is Lake Tschida, which has numerous permanent cabin sites and public use areas making it a 24-hour recreation lake. Often working alone she has had to multi-task and prioritize to accomplish the mission. In addition to her responsibilities on Lake Tschida, Warden Sprenger has volunteered to take numerous tours of duty working with the newly formed Missouri River Task Force. She was often officer-in-charge for her shift, sharing her knowledge of boat and water safety and providing guidance to those around her.

Warden Sprenger has responded to calls both day and night for boat accident investigations and for hazardous or reckless operation of a boat. Warden Sprenger has excelled in reaching out to young boaters by providing many hours of boat safety instruction. When called upon to do extra patrols or help a boater in need, she has enthusiastically met the challenge. Her passion for boat and water safety is obvious to any who have had the pleasure to work with her on boat patrol. Warden Sprenger continues to be a valuable asset to the Department and the boating public she serves and an outstanding example of professionalism to her colleagues.



**State Watercraft Officer
Jason Latchic**
Department of
Natural Resources
Ohio

Officer Jason Latchic is well rounded and professional in all aspects of his duties. His law enforcement statistics have been top notch since beginning his career in 2001. In 2009, he recorded 66 patrol events contacting 1313 boaters with 309 written inspections and 180 abbreviated written inspections. He issued 351 warnings and participated in numerous alcohol saturation patrols while he conducted 16 investigations and four search and rescue events. These statistics illustrate the commitment to his duties and dedication to service but they do not tell the entire story.

Officer Latchic conducts the various tasks of his job with attention to detail and respect for his office and the people that he serves. He is well liked and cares about the people he works with, the job that he does, and the integrity of his position. He treats all people that he contacts with respect whether they are fellow officers, victims of accidents, or people that he has to detain.

In addition to his strong law enforcement statistics, Officer Latchic participated in 17

education events, teaching over 300 students. He taught three certified canoe classes to 159 students, spent 32 hours teaching a paddlers' river rescue course to 52 students and spent nine days teaching different levels of river rescue to 25 students. To accomplish these numbers, Officer Latchic had to be willing to be away from his home on travel for more than five weeks. He accepts new challenges with resolve and volunteers to jump in whenever needed with little regard for personal recognition or accolades. He would be the last one to say that his work performance was deserving of attention.



**Waterways Conservation Officer
John Sabaitis**
Fish and Boat Commission
Pennsylvania

Waterways Conservation Officer (WCO) John Sabaitis has served the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission for nearly three decades, beginning with his service during the 1980s as a deputy waterways conservation officer in Schuylkill County prior to becoming a full-time waterways conservation officer in 1990.

Sabaitis began his WCO career patrolling the Delaware River in Philadelphia then transferred to his current assignment in the Berks County district where he spends an extensive amount of time patrolling Blue Marsh Lake, an extremely popular U.S. Army Corps of Engineers facility that draws boaters from all over eastern Pennsylvania. In addition to the many other duties of a WCO such as fish stocking, enforcing fishing regulations, and conducting investigations of environmental violations involving waterways and wetlands, WCO Sabaitis logged 54 days of boat patrol during 1990. He and his deputy officers conducted over 1,000 boardings of boats and issued 134 citations and 407 warnings for violations of the Commonwealth's boating regulations.

Besides his boating law enforcement efforts, WCO Sabaitis also conducted numerous public relations and educational programs related to boating safety involving local sportsmen's clubs, the USCG Auxiliary, the Boy Scouts and other local youth groups. Officer Sabaitis also serves as a firearms instructor and is a Field Training Officer for the agency. As a Field Training Officer, he is well known for his patience and dedication when training new officers. He is especially committed to instructing new officers in boat operation and boat patrol and will devote however many hours and however much effort is required to turn a new officer into a skilled boat operator and boating law enforcement officer.



**Environmental Police Officer
Daniel White**
Department of Environmental Management
Rhode Island

The Rhode Island DEM/Division of Law Enforcement nominee for NASBLA Boating Officer of the Year is EPO Daniel White. Officer White has been an outstanding boating officer for this division for years and is accomplished in all facets of boating safety law enforcement. Dan is frequently on boat patrols, both citing violators and educating boaters. Dan is the division's lead boating accident reconstruction officer, and has performed many reconstructions of serious accidents. Most notably, Officer White performed a reconstruction last year of a fatal boating accident which resulted in the defendant being charged with Manslaughter. The defense hired nationally recognized boat accident investigators to refute Officer White's very detailed and complex reconstruction, but their findings only confirmed EPO White's investigation. As a result, the defendant had no choice but to plead guilty and is now serving a prison sentence in Rhode Island.

As a side note, the gratitude expressed by the victim's family for the closure provided by this prosecution justified all the hard work and efforts of the investigators and made the value of these efforts clear.



**Conservation Officer
Brian Humphrey**
Department of Game, Fish and Parks
South Dakota

The actions of South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks Conservation Officer Brian Humphrey during the 10-day search for a drowning victim in May of 2009 were those of an experienced and dedicated law enforcement officer. He went beyond the call of duty in his search efforts by providing professional skills and compassionate support to those involved. Without his skilled ability and professionalism, the search would have been complicated and potentially unresolved. He brought a level of expertise to the search as well as a sincere and sympathetic extension to the victim's family by providing detailed information in a kind and compassionate demeanor.

Officer Humphrey has boating responsibilities in two counties in addition to supporting

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the patrol activities along the busy Missouri River. He logged over 25 hours of on-water patrol and had one boating under the influence (BUI) case in June 2009. The subject of the BUI arrest refused to cooperate and risked the lives of everyone on the water that day. Officer Humphrey successfully established probable cause, restrained the individual and arrested him, bringing sound resolution to a potentially dangerous situation. Officer Humphrey wrote supportive reports and was ready for testimony, which aided in a successful prosecution of the subject.

A well-rounded conservation officer, Officer Humphrey is mindful and respectful in all of his boating contacts. He has shown over the years to balance reason, circumstances and risk mitigation into his thought processes. He has been involved in numerous search and rescue operations and is a trained subject matter expert for the Department in the use of side-scan sonar equipment.

Officer Humphrey has over 13 years of experience in the field and continues to keep the Department's mission in focus while meeting the needs of others he is in contact with on the water.



Conservation Warden Tyler Strelow
Department of Natural Resources
Wisconsin

Conservation Warden Tyler Strelow works in Dane County, which has 36 lakes and five rivers covering over 21,000 acres. In 2009 he issued 58 citations, 291 warnings including 13 BUI citations. He participated in six group checks in his three-county team area. One of those checks was during Rhythm and Booms, which sees over 2,000 boats on Lake Mendota in one evening.

Warden Strelow assisted in certifying 52 students in boater education. Besides education classes, he has become the lead spokesperson for the DNR's public service announcements (PSAs) on boating safety. He has appeared in nine PSAs, including four long videos covering topics such as education, cold water, pre- and post-season boat checks, personal watercraft and paddlesports safety. He is also featured in "7 Steps to Safer Boating," a video distributed with the Natural Resources Magazine in the summer of 2009.

A proactive officer, Warden Strelow is motivated to solve issues before they become problems. For example, to address the issue of sailboat non-registration he contacted sailing clubs. In a training instance, he received a side scan-sonar with which he was unfamiliar. Understanding

the importance of the piece of equipment, he arranged a training day with a technician. He now is the regional trainer on the side-scan sonar. During a suppression hearing in Dane County Circuit Court he was able to establish the afloat battery of sobriety tests as a creditable measure for establishing probable cause for a boating under the influence arrest.

Strelow works closely with the Dane County Sheriff's Marine Patrol and regularly coordinates daily patrols, partnering for effective enforcement efforts. He also collaborated with the other wardens in his region to present an on-the-water multi-county municipal boat patrol training, one of the first of this size and coordinated effort. The feedback from the marine officers who participated in the training rated it consistently as "excellent."

SOUTHERN REGION



Officer Freddie R. Ingram Jr.
Marine Police
Alabama

Officer Freddie R. Ingram Jr. is a well-rounded officer who maintains a high level of quality and effectiveness in his educational and enforcement efforts. His enthusiasm for promoting boating safety prompts him to take on new tasks and assignments outside of his patrol area, Lake Tuscaloosa.

In addition to teaching numerous boating safety courses, Officer Ingram volunteered to participate in the Conservation Outdoor Expo, taking on the task of teaching canoe safety to over 40,000 children and adults who attended this statewide event. He also volunteered to work the Gulf Coast Shrimp Fest, imparting knowledge about personal watercraft safety to the 3000 children and adults who visited the Alabama Marine Police booth.

Officer Ingram is a stellar enforcement officer who cultivates excellent working relationships with other law enforcement entities. He was asked by the Department of Corrections to assist in a search for an escaped convict. After a two-day search, Officer Ingram located and apprehended the convict as he was attempting to flee in a stolen boat. Officer Ingram received a commendation from the Department of Corrections for his actions. Due to his excellent tracking skills, Officer Ingram was also able to locate and rescue four hunters who had gotten hopelessly lost in the Sipsey Swamp.

Officer Ingram is proactive in the pursuit of intoxicated boat operators and narcotics

interdiction. He was instrumental in locating and dismantling two methamphetamine labs, resulting in eight felony drug arrests. He made five boating under the influence arrests, removing dangerous operators from the waterways. Additionally, he wrote 230 tickets for various boating safety and equipment violations.

Officer Ingram's standing in his community and the respect he receives from other enforcement agencies is exemplary. The enthusiasm and passion he displays for his career as a water-safety professional enable him to be very effective in his enforcement and educational endeavors. Officer Ingram sets a high standard for all officers to follow.



Corporal Ross Spurlock
Game & Fish
Commission
Arkansas

Throughout his 20-plus years with the Arkansas Game & Fish Commission, Corporal Ross Spurlock has remained at the top of his field. He is always willing to take on new tasks or assignments that very few officers would even attempt. He served several years as the commission's liaison officer with the FBI and even accepted the role of assistant boating law administrator during a reorganizational period within the enforcement division.

In 2009 Cpl. Spurlock dedicated 320.5 hours toward boating safety enforcement, issuing 60 citations and conducting 81 assists, for a total of 141 written violator contacts. He taught five boating education classes and is always "on-call" to fill in for instructors when needed. He assisted with the investigation of three boating accidents in 2009. While off-duty he coordinated the response to a fatal accident involving a young boy at a local lake. He also coordinated the rescue and recovery efforts during a flood on the Arkansas River where a marina broke loose and floated downstream and struck the I-430 Bridge. He recovered several boats and drifting docks and was able to secure them to keep them from drifting further downstream and striking the Murray Dam.

Cpl. Spurlock has dedicated his career to teaching new officers and others about law enforcement and boating safety. He spends a lot of his time working with younger officers to help them improve their enforcement techniques. He approached the administration with suggestions to re-vamp and improve the BUI packets for officers. He also rewrote the agency's Rights form to include new mandatory language and the SFST booklet to make it easier to use. Cpl. Spurlock also created and instructed a specialized "hands-on" PWC class for all Arkansas Game and Fish

Regional Education Coordinators to teach them the basics of PWC operation and help them be more proficient when teaching the public.



**Officer
Dennis Hamel**
Harbor Patrol
Unit
District of
Columbia

A police officer for 20 years, Officer Dennis Hamel has been assigned to the District of Columbia Harbor Patrol Unit as a marine patrol officer for approximately five years.

Officer Hamel is a motivated officer and known by his supervisors as hard working. He displays a strong sense of pride in his job. When extra work is needed, he makes himself available day and night, even coming back to work on short notice. In instances of emergency call-backs, Officer Hamel is one of the first officers on the scene, ready and eager to take emergency action in any type of situation.

During 2009, Officer Hamel conducted 168 on-board safety inspections and issued 57 citations for boating violations, terminated countless voyages due to safety violations and assisted in numerous dive operations; recovering evidence and property.

An example of Officer Hamel's dedication to duty became known in April 2009 when a call came out for a person in the water at Chain Bridge on the Potomac. The river was swollen due to a recent rainfall and the current was swift, dangerous and full of debris. A young boy had fallen into the water from the shoreline and his father and a Good Samaritan jumped in to save him. The current carried all three downstream. Officer Hamel arrived on the scene and was able to pull the father to safety in his boat from some rocks. Sadly, the young boy and Good Samaritan perished.

In another incident a boater had fallen from his canoe into the frigid 50-degree water. Officer Hamel saw the man clinging to his canoe, unable to pull himself back into the boat. Hamel immediately pulled alongside the man and pulled him to safety in his patrol vessel. Had Officer Hamel not been on patrol, the outcome could have been completely different.



**Officer
Richard "Rich"
Wilcox**
Fish and Wildlife
Conservation
Commission
Florida

Officer Rich Wilcox is a five-year veteran of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), with a reputation as a tenacious, skilled officer whom outlaws prefer to avoid. One landowner in Wilcox's patrol area described him this way: "If he is on your trail, you might as well give up, because he won't quit until he catches you."

Wilcox built a variety of criminal cases in one year that might take others an entire career to accomplish. In January 2009, even though he was on annual leave, Wilcox acted quickly on a tip about night-hunting poachers. Because of his availability, quick action and superb training, Wilcox brought down a ring of illegal hunters who were harvesting deer to sell the meat. After a three-month investigation, he arrested eight suspects on 88 violations.

In April and May 2009, Wilcox developed a confidential informant and eventually arrested an individual who was shooting deer at night and trading the meat for drugs. In addition, the FWC charged the suspect with possession of gopher tortoises and a red-shouldered hawk.

The same skill and tenacity that make Wilcox so good at cracking fish and wildlife cases are why a woman who was missing for a week in September 2009 is still alive today. Search-and-rescue personnel had nearly given up trying to find the 21-year-old woman when Wilcox spotted a key piece of evidence. Using keen tracking and investigative techniques, Wilcox searched the thick, inhospitable area by ATV and finally found the woman. For that, he received the agency's prestigious Lifesaving Award.

With all of these accomplishments and commendations, Wilcox is surprisingly modest. His supervisors acknowledge that he is very well known in his region, but they also call him humble and soft-spoken. He excels as an officer not for the glory but truly for the love of the job.



**RFC
Mark Stephens**
Department of
Natural
Resources
Georgia

Assigned to one of the busiest waterways in the country - Lake Sidney Lanier - RFC Mark Stephens places a premium on educating the

boating public on safe practices. During 2009, he presented 22 boating safety programs and conducted three boating operator education classes. He continued his public outreach by visiting every marina on the lake and educating boaters on Georgia's new boat registration system. He also taught the local Girl Scouts canoeing and handed out over 50 life jackets to the non-swimming public.

RFC Stephens is talented at utilizing his enforcement authority to keep Georgia's waterways safe and provided excellent customer service in his area, performed equipment safety checks on 878 boats and logged nearly 400 on-water patrol hours, more than double that of his co-workers. He answered 93 complaints/calls and provided 814 boating safety related hours. He also led the department in boating under the influence enforcement with 13 arrests and investigated 15 boating incidents.

While patrolling the banks of the Chattahoochee River, RFC Stephens saved a swimmer in distress and prevented a sure drowning from occurring by jumping into the river and pulling the swimmer to safety. He was nominated for Georgia's annual Peace Officer of the Year Award for Valor for his courageous action. RFC Stephens also received the Commissioner's Distinguished Service Award for his work during the 2009 flood event, which wreaked havoc on metro Atlanta. He is a volunteer at our State Operations Center and helps to coordinate emergency response during times of crisis.

RFC Mark Stephens is a dedicated officer who works hard to ensure that the citizens of Georgia are served, protected and educated on Georgia's waterways. He truly gives 100 percent to Georgia's boating safety mission.



**Officer
Eric Thomas**
Department of
Fish and Wildlife
Resources
Kentucky

Described as a mature, highly skilled and well-rounded officer with leadership potential, Officer Eric Thomas worked approximately 80 percent of his time from May through August on the water. Alcohol arrests were down on Dewey Lake this year due to efforts of officers such as Thomas who has an excellent record with prosecutions and the local court system. Officer Thomas has issued more than 40 citations as well as numerous courtesy notices.

For the past four years Officer Thomas has worked with college interns on local lakes. He also teaches several boater education courses each summer and works countless hours with

2010 Boating Officers of the Year

the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Officer Thomas uses computer technology to search out hidden violations such as false reporting of residence and the addresses and registrations of boats, motors and trailers.

In 2009 Officer Thomas risked his own life to save the life of another. The officer walked into raging water with a rope tied to his body to rescue a trapped fisherman from the top of his truck cab. He also saved the life of a woman whose husband tried to drown her in a creek. He arrested the male subject and revived the victim, who was later transported to the hospital. Officer Thomas has a vast knowledge of water rescues and has worked many flood situations, including hurricanes in other states. In 2009 he used his boat to rescue approximately 40 people from rising floodwaters.



**Sergeant
Joseph C. Ortis**
Department of
Wildlife and
Fisheries
Louisiana

Sgt. Joseph C. Ortis joined the Enforcement Division of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries as an agent in September of 1997. He has been active in boating law enforcement in Point Coupee Parish, especially in the False River area, a popular boating waterway in the Baton Rouge area.

Sgt. Ortis has a passion for his job, which reflects on every individual he contacts. In his years of marine enforcement, he has always made himself available for boating safety classes, public boating safety forums, media representation and community boating events such as fishing tournaments. He often uses his years of experience and expertise in all areas of boating to produce a volume and quality of work that is highly regarded in the Enforcement Division. His efforts earned him 2004 Agent of the Year for his region.

Sgt. Ortis is very active in boating under the influence detection, resulting in several arrests during his years in enforcement. He brings determination and persistence in his desire to keep the waterways of his patrol area free of impaired operators. In a very recent boating tragedy that took the lives of three young men, Sgt. Ortis helped bring an indictment of the individual responsible for the accident who was deemed to be under the influence at the time.

Well versed in navigation rules, legal requirements, boating mechanics and other areas of boating, Sgt. Ortis has become an outstanding investigator. His discipline in his investigation

practices is reflected in his reports, which are always thorough and complete.

Because of his dedication to all facets of boating safety and countless boat hours he has logged in his marine enforcement career, Sgt. Ortis is tasked to train cadets in the Enforcement Academy.



**Officer First
Class
Timothy M.
Kraemer**
Natural
Resources Police
Maryland

The mission of the Maryland Natural Resources Police is quite diverse and requires officers to demonstrate proficiency and involvement in many areas of conservation, general criminal and boating safety law enforcement. Officer First Class Timothy M. Kraemer's performance and accomplishments demonstrate the necessity of cross training and involvement in every facet of the Agency's operations.

Officer First Class Kraemer, a six-year veteran of the Maryland Natural Resources Police, consistently produces the highest quality of work. Whether enforcing Maryland's conservation laws, state boating laws and regulations, criminal law, motor vehicle law, or fulfilling his duties in the Maryland State Parks, he performs his duties in an outstanding manner.

Officer First Class Kraemer consistently demonstrates sound judgment in enforcing boating, conservation and park laws and treats every boater, hunter or park visitor with respect and patience. He is extremely reliable and self-motivated, and he consistently demonstrates an exemplary work ethic in meeting the mandated responsibilities of the agency's mission. Positive, personable, conscientious and a team player, Officer First Class Kraemer is an asset to the Maryland Natural Resources Police and the citizens of Maryland.



**PFC
Cary Robinson**
Department of
Natural
Resources
South Carolina

PFC Cary Robinson's actions demonstrate that he is hard working and dedicated both to the Department of Natural Resources and to enforcing the boating laws of South Carolina. He has taken great effort to offer hands-on education to the state's boaters by teaching safe boating practices, offering 13 public safety presentations, distributing DNR literature, and conducting four

courtesy boat inspections. Most importantly, he takes the time to ensure that each boater understands the laws.

PFC Robinson demonstrates his desire to keep South Carolina's waterways safe by taking a more aggressive approach to enforcing boating safety and boating under the influence laws. He has been an asset to the department by consistently making himself available and working with local officers with Conway City, North Myrtle Beach boat patrol unit, Horry County police, and DHEC officers in boating enforcement.

His drive to succeed has directly contributed to the Horry County unit's increased efforts in boating enforcement in general and boating under the influence enforcement specifically. During his two years as a conservation officer, Robinson has made more contacts with boaters than any other officer in the unit. He is very skilled at recognizing boating violations and deciding what tactic should be employed in each situation. During 2009 PFC Robinson completed 281 hours of boat patrols, inspected 988 boats, and issued 116 boating citations, including 34 PFD violations, 22 negligent boat operations, and one boating under suspension violation - a particularly hard case to make. He also issued 319 boating warnings for a total of 435 paper contacts for boating violations.

Cary has an exceptional ability to locate impaired boat operators, follow through with field sobriety tests, and make arrests. He has done an extraordinary job prosecuting boating cases and BUI with a very high conviction rate. He completed 19 BUI screenings in 2009, six of which were charged and convicted for BUI.



**Officer
George Birdwell**
Wildlife Resources
Agency
Tennessee

Officer George Birdwell's assigned work area, which includes four large reservoirs in East Tennessee, is extremely popular for recreational boating and fishing activities. His method of enforcement helps the boating public to have a more enriching and enjoyable boating experience and is effective at preventing accidents. During 2009 he inspected 405 vessels and issued 21 court citations and six warnings. In addition he conducted eight boating under the influence investigations, made three BUI arrests, assisted 15 boaters in distress and was responsible for the recovery of three stolen vessels.

Officer Birdwell has proven to be invaluable in accident investigations. He was the lead investigator on one fatal boat accident and three property damage accidents. More importantly, due to his knowledge and experience, Officer

Birdwell was requested by his fellow officers to assist in investigating nearly 30 other accidents. He invests the time necessary to ensure a thorough and competent report which includes a pursuit of criminal charges when warranted.

In 2009, Officer Birdwell initiated a program where he teaches boating safety to high school students in Greeneville, Tenn. His course was incorporated into the school's driver education curriculum and reached 250 students. Officer Birdwell also ensures that the public libraries in the area maintain opportunities for people to participate in Tennessee's mandatory boater education program. He works closely with the court systems to provide boater education as an alternative to fines for those convicted of boating violations. In addition he teaches boating safety classes with an open enrollment for adults and kids.

Officer Birdwell initiated a system to protect law enforcement patrol boats when stored over winter with a shrink-wrap technique. With this system he was able to save the agency money by extending the life of these vessels. Other work areas now use this technique on their patrol boats and private vessels that are impounded for evidence.



**Game Warden
Chip Daigle**
Parks and
Wildlife
Department
Texas

Warden Daigle is assigned to Denton County, Texas, one of the busiest recreational boating areas of the state. His water safety patrol area includes over 60,000 surface acres of water. He works on one of the deadliest lakes in Texas in regards to drowning. Because of his diligence in his water safety patrol efforts, he has made a major impact in reducing the number of boating accidents on Lake Lewisville.

Warden Daigle is the senior warden in his county and spends much of his time assisting other wardens with boating while intoxicated violations, training techniques and case preparation. He has made 23 BWI arrests in his career with a 100 percent conviction rate.

Warden Daigle is the main point of contact in his area for the local media, providing them with ride-alongs, water safety information and statistics, interviews and live broadcasts from the lake.

Warden Daigle is a Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officers Standards Instructor, Marine Safety Enforcement Officer Instructor, SFST practitioner and FTO to new wardens. He has attended Boat Accident Investigation training, Swift Water training, and is a certified Intoxylizer operator.

Warden Daigle has recently been selected to attend the Tactical Marine Patrol Officers

Course (MPOC) at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Charleston, South Carolina.

Warden Daigle has visited every police agency that has jurisdiction on the lakes in Denton County to offer training in the Marine Safety Officer program and trained interested officers of those departments. In addition, he has been very involved each year with local schools and students educating them on water safety and alcohol awareness.



**Senior
Conservation
Police Officer
John Koloda**
Department of
Game and Inland
Fisheries
Virginia

Since joining the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries in 2003, Senior Officer John Koloda has proven himself a true asset. He currently is stationed in Botetourt County and patrols the ever-busy Roanoke River, James River and Smith Mountain Lake. He consistently displays an outstanding ability to handle complex situations to maintain smooth operations in his district. Furthermore, he emphasizes boating safety and responsible boat operation techniques to everyone he encounters.

Senior Officer Koloda is well known for his firm but fair law enforcement practices. He has averaged 373 arrests over the last three years with 120 of those being boat-related. Of those 120, a significant number were boating under the influence and reckless boating cases. Koloda utilizes unique enforcement tactics to gain compliance with Virginia's boat laws and regulations.

After transferring to District 22, Officer Koloda realized the upper James River in Botetourt County was a highly populated recreational area not actively being patrolled by conservation officers. Much of this was due to the high demand Smith Mountain Lake requires. Officer Koloda took the proactive approach to suggest scheduling boat patrols on the river, resulting in a high number of violations detected in an otherwise un-worked territory.

After several years of patrolling Smith Mountain Lake, Officer Koloda noticed that many of the children he encountered on or near the water were not wearing life jackets. On his own initiative, he created the concept of PFDs for Popsicles and Popcorn, a safety program that targets children who proudly adorn personal flotation devices while engaged in water activities.

Learning that a large number of boaters using the James River in Botetourt County reported they were unaware of the current boating regulations after being issued summons, Officer

Koloda communicated with other Divisions and worked with department personnel in order to have current boat regulation signs permanently installed at the county's public boat ramps.

WESTERN REGION



**Chief Ranger
Jacques Kosto**
Division of Parks
and Outdoor
Recreation
Alaska

Jacques Kosto, chief ranger for the Kenai River Special Management Area (KRSMA), supervises an excellent team of rangers who patrol the 108-mile Kenai River, Kenai Lake and Skilak Lake. The world-famous Kenai River sees a fifth of the state's entire sport fishing activity. Each year, Ranger Kosto and his staff intensively patrol the river, writing 300 to 700 citations for boating and fishing violations and responding to an average of five to 10 serious boating accidents.

Ranger Kosto teaches the state's Alaska Water Wise courses each year. He also instructs at the Kenai River Guide Academy. But where he really affects boating safety is his work with the future boaters of Alaska - whether on the water encouraging life jacket wear with ice cream reward coupons or in the classroom with a Kids Don't Float presentation. He is often requested by name, and he and his staff have received numerous accolades including receiving a Partner of Excellence award from Safe Kids - Alaska.

Ranger Kosto's vigilance extends beyond his day job. In July 2009, a boat carrying four sport fishermen suddenly lost power and drifted into a commercial fishing buoy then capsized. Two men were ejected from the boat; the other two were trapped underneath. Ranger Kosto, who was on the river in his personal boat when he was notified about the situation, was among the first to arrive on scene.

The two men that had been ejected had been quickly recovered but the men under the capsized boat remained trapped in the frigid water. Kosto and other responders were able to free the trapped men by forcing one end of the boat down, which lifted the other end. Kosto and his father quickly grabbed one of the exhausted men and pulled him into his boat. Everyone was rescued.

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Deputy
Joe Pinder
Solano County
Sheriff's Office
California

From his first day on the job just two years ago, Deputy Joe Pinder has put a lot of effort into learning his job, connecting with peers and other associates involved in the maritime community. While making these connections, he has networked with allied agencies, learned what equipment issues they were experiencing, and provided them with usable surplus equipment.

Soon after completing both the Accident Investigation and Advanced Accident Investigation courses, Deputy Pinder hit the ground running as he was able to apply his training to an accident involving a dredge discharge pipe and a recreational boater. He later assisted a coworker with an injury accident at a weir in the Mare Island Strait. He also used his familiarity with accident investigations to assist Coast Guard Sector San Francisco with a fatal commercial accident at the same Mare Island Strait weir location involving a maritime salvager. Due to the Coast Guard's lack of accident investigation training, Deputy Pinder guided them through interpreting the evidence of the smaller vessel accident in which, by the Coast Guard investigation team's own admission, they were untrained. The Coast Guard investigation team was so impressed with Pinder's knowledge and expertise in accident reconstruction, they were inspired to enroll in Department of Boating & Waterways (DBW) Accident Investigation & Reconstruction courses.

Through a collaborative effort with the Coast Guard and the victim's employer, Deputy Pinder obtained copies of the accident investigation and real-time video from the onboard camera at the time of the accident. Furthermore, he was able to get the damaged vessel donated to DBW for the Accident Investigation and Reconstruction courses. The accident report, real-time video and damaged boat are unprecedented learning tools, which have been made available to those in maritime law enforcement because of Deputy Pinder's efforts.



Ranger
Jim Hawkins
Larimer County
Department of
Natural
Resources
Colorado

Jim Hawkins began his career with Larimer County Department of Natural Resources in 2002 as a seasonal employee. He moved through the ranks quickly and soon became the youngest officer ever assigned to the boat patrol program. He became a fully certified ranger in the spring of 2007.

Boating and boat safety has always been a passion for Ranger Hawkins and he excels in watercraft law enforcement. He has established himself as an exemplary role model and boating officer in a department that serves in excess of 60,000 recreational boaters per year. Ranger Hawkins assumed program responsibility for the boating enforcement section and completed a detailed boat audit of Larimer County's boat program. As a result, he instituted many changes to standardize and upgrade the program.

In cooperation with Colorado State Parks, Ranger Hawkins has assisted in teaching Colorado State Parks Boating Safely courses in Northern Larimer County. Ranger Hawkins' enthusiasm in public outreach transfers from the classroom to his venues of responsibility.

After attending NASBLA's Boat Accident Investigation Course in the fall of 2008, Ranger Hawkins became the agency's lead boat accident investigator in 2009. His skills were soon utilized that spring during an investigation of a fatal boat accident on Carter Lake. Ranger Hawkins completed a thorough investigation including a detailed inventory of evidence. This attention to detail resulted in the district attorney charging the boat operator with boating under the influence and vehicular homicide. This case is currently awaiting trial.

In the summer of 2009, he was dispatched to a report of a female that had possible spinal cord injuries from jumping off a cliff into Horsetooth Reservoir. The only access to the victim was by watercraft. Ranger Hawkins was first on scene. He assisted in providing C-Spine stabilization and transported the victim to awaiting paramedics. The victim made a full recovery due to Ranger Hawkins' decisive actions and expertise in water-based operations.



Conservation
Enforcement
Officer IV
Michael N. Lapilio
Dept. of Land &
Natural Resources
Hawaii

Michael Lapilio is a conservation enforcement officer in charge of the Oahu Branch Marine Unit for the Hawaii Department of Land & Natural Resources (DLNR). Commonly known to all as "Lapa," he is a humble yet seasoned law enforcement officer with over 32 years of dedicated service. Officer Lapilio started his career with the Honolulu Police Department in 1978.

Lapilio is an avid fisherman, surfer, sportsman, woodworker and Hawaiian cultural practitioner. In 1988, he decided to forgo a promising career with HPD to embrace his strong desire to help protect and sustain Hawaii's natural, cultural and historical resources by joining the DLNR as a state conservation enforcement officer.

Rising through the ranks at DLNR, Officer Lapilio became the Oahu Island Branch Chief, overseeing unprecedented growth of the branch. A strong desire to get back to the field and the hands-on aspect of the job eventually prompted Lapilio to demote himself to field supervisor.

In 1996, a legislative act dissolved the state's Marine Patrol and tasked the state's Conservation and Resources Enforcement Division with all maritime enforcement responsibility throughout the state. Only a handful of former marine patrol officers came over in the "Reduction In Force" action and they were quickly re-trained and absorbed into the ranks as conservation enforcement officers to patrol vast areas from the mountains to the sea. Lapilio quickly recognized that a greater focus on the marine environment was warranted and began advocating for the creation of a dedicated marine unit within the Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement.

He continued to promote the idea for several years. With assistance from two fellow officers, he conceived, planned and proposed the creation of a unit that focused on the education and enforcement of state laws pertaining to boating safety, ocean recreation, protected marine species, water SAR and harbors. Eventually, the idea took hold and the state's only dedicated marine unit was formed.



**Sergeant
Jay Colvin**
Nez Perce County
Sheriff's Office
Idaho

Sgt. Jay Colvin started in law enforcement in 1993 with the U.S. Coast Guard. He started in civilian law enforcement in 1997 with the Nez Perce Tribal Police Department, achieving the rank of sergeant with that agency. Sgt. Colvin began working for the Nez Perce County Sheriff's Office in 1999 and has been the Marine Division Supervisor since 2003. He currently instructs in the following Idaho courses: Marine Law Enforcement Academy, Marine Tactical Advantage Course, Basic Firearms, Patrol Rifle, and is a certified Public Boat Safety Educator. He also co-authored and instructs one of the nation's first river navigation training courses, the Idaho Marine Officer River Navigation and Techniques Course.

Sgt. Colvin has improved the image of the Nez Perce County Sheriff's Office throughout the state by his professional demeanor and actions. He developed and guided a program of ramp checks that vaulted Nez Perce County to the top of the state in total number of vessel safety inspections.

In the spring of 2008, Sgt. Colvin responded to two separate incidents on the Snake River the same day in a span of six hours, rescuing 11 individuals including two young children. The river was running at an extremely high level due to high amounts of precipitation and runoff, resulting in dangerous conditions. In one incident a boat collided with a fish trap. When Sgt. Colvin arrived at the scene he found four individuals on top of the trap. He positioned the boat so that the individuals could safely reach his patrol vessel. In the second incident, a boat hit a bridge piling and was pinned up against debris in heavy current. While patrol deputies illuminated the scene with spotlights, Sgt. Colvin was able to position his patrol boat against the port side bow so the occupants (five adults, two children) could safely transfer onto his patrol boat.



**Game Warden
Matt Heaton**
Fish, Wildlife
and Parks
Montana

KalisPELL Game Warden Matt Heaton strives to meet the demands of the growing recreational boating population. He works the busy waters at a variety of key times, focusing and customizing his presence to attain maximum

effect. His demeanor with the public is always positive and helpful, often providing information and guidance as well as helpful advice. He has worked closely with Flathead County officers in the pursuit of problem boaters and assisted with water-based recreation accident and crime investigation.

On July 4, 2009, two vessels collided after the fireworks display on Flathead Lake, resulting in the death of the driver of one vessel, serious head trauma to the second driver and numerous other injuries to other occupants. Given the time and location of this fatality the investigation was extremely time-consuming: the vessels crashed at night and several miles offshore on the largest freshwater lake west of the Mississippi.

Heaton responded to the accident and, after having already worked a complete day in his district, worked late into the evening and the following morning heading up the investigation. Game Warden Heaton was in charge of putting together two search warrants for both vessels as well as a third search warrant to access data on the GPS unit from one vessel.

He worked with four other wardens to process the boats and reconstruct what happened from the marks and damage to the vessels. Game Warden Heaton worked with a contract GIS consultant to reconstruct the accident from the GPS unit's coordinates, which provided exact speed, direction, location and time of the accident. The investigation culminated with citations being issued to the driver of one vessel for reckless operation and overloading a vessel. The individual pled no contest to reckless operation of a vessel as part of a plea agreement with the county attorney.



**Game Warden
Kristy Knight**
Department of
Wildlife
Nevada

Kristy Knight is a dedicated boating officer, formerly assigned to patrol Lake Mead on the Colorado River System. Over her several years on Lake Mead, she proved herself an invaluable member of Nevada's law enforcement program.

Knight is a dedicated officer, putting in extra hours for boat patrol and covering important events and holidays with other game wardens. Although her main assignment was Lake Mead, she spent a great deal of time on the lower Colorado River helping other officers. The lower Colorado River continues to be a trouble spot for boating issues, accidents and operating under the influence (OUI) arrests.

Game Warden Knight is particularly adept at OUI arrests, finding many people operating un-

der the influence each year and getting them off the water in her area and in other problem OUI areas. She has participated in numerous OUI checkpoints, a particular success in Nevada.

In 2009 Game Warden Knight worked a complex and unique stolen boat case. The case involved a great deal of investigation, which uncovered the filing of a stolen vessel report with a local jurisdiction when in fact the personal watercraft had never left the owner's possession. Knight ultimately arrested the person who was in possession of the vessel with the fraudulent registration.

Not only valuable on the boat, Game Warden Knight has become involved with training other officers. She stepped in to become a field training officer as well as a defensive tactics instructor.

Knight was recently moved to Fallon, Nevada, where she continues her boating responsibilities on the often-troubled Lahontan Reservoir, a recreational body of water an hour outside Reno that sees tens of thousands of visitors a year. She has also taken responsibility for Nevada's aids to navigation program in this new position in addition to taking on added duties for wildlife crime prevention.



**Assistant Park
Manager
George Faust**
State Parks and
Recreation
Utah

George Faust was hired in August 1991 by Utah State Parks and Recreation as a park ranger. He has worked at the boating parks during his 18-year career. He started out at Willard Bay State Park and then transferred to East Canyon State Park, then to Utah Lake State Park, where he was promoted to Assistant Manager in 2004. Prior to coming to Utah State Parks, George graduated from Lake Superior State University with a degree in Recreation Management.

Faust's work with the boating public on Utah Lake has stood out over the years. He consistently makes high numbers of quality boating contacts, taking time to educate boaters as well as issuing citations when important safety equipment is missing or negligent operations that could harm boaters or property damage is observed. Faust has won annual incentive awards from the boating program for his commitment to finding and rectifying dangerous boating situations on Utah Lake. He seems to have an eye for finding underage personal watercraft operators, overloaded boats and boats without sufficient life jackets. In 2009 he formally inspected 144 vessels.

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Faust has assisted hundreds of boaters over the last several years. Almost on a daily basis during the boating season he has been called to locate and tow in or otherwise assist boaters on Utah Lake. On numerous occasions he has been called out after hours to assist a disabled boater or participate in a major search and rescue or body recovery.

His knowledge of and experience on the lake makes him an invaluable member of our team serving the boaters on Utah Lake.



**Sergeant
Keith
McDonough**
Mercer Island
Police
Department
Washington

Sergeant Keith McDonough has been a marine patrol officer with the Mercer Island Police Department for 13 years, serving as supervisor of the department's Marine Unit for the past four years. In this position he has made numerous contributions to improving boating safety on Lake Washington and in the state of Washington.

Sgt. McDonough has been instrumental in organizing and implementing the annual Seafair Boating Under the Influence (BUI) Emphasis patrol, which is co-sponsored by the Washington State Patrol Impaired Driving Section and the Mercer Island Police. In 2009 there were 110 BUI arrests during the Seafair weekend and no serious accidents. Since the inception of the emphasis patrol in 2004, there have been 528 arrests for BUI

and numerous others for various offenses. Seafair accidents and injuries have been significantly reduced due to the emphasis patrol.

Sgt. McDonough also leads the MIPD's boating/water safety education and outreach programs. Over the past two years he has visited approximately 70 kindergarten classrooms, teaching water safety to over 1800 students. The Marine Unit also taught numerous mandatory boater education classes.

Sgt. McDonough has done an outstanding job operationally with the Marine Unit. Lake Washington is one of the busiest bodies of water in the state. Each year the Marine Unit successfully addresses over 15 special events, numerous search and rescue missions and serious boating accidents.

Sgt. McDonough has been a proponent for additional funding for local marine programs. Over the past two years, he has sought and received \$150,000 in grant funds for improving boating safety on Lake Washington.



**Game Warden
Gary Boyd**
Game and Fish
Department
Wyoming

An 18-year veteran with the Game and Fish Department, Gary Bond started his career as a reservoir crew patrol officer in 1992 and was promoted to game warden in 1995. He makes watercraft enforcement a priority even though his warden district has no bodies of water accessible to boats. To work watercraft enforcement

he must travel to other warden districts.

One of Game Ward Bond's enforcement priorities is apprehending operators boating under the influence (BUI) of alcohol or drugs. During his career he has arrested or assisted with the arrest of more than 30 individuals for BUI. Another priority is developing and assisting with the region's annual watercraft/fishing law enforcement task forces during the extremely busy Memorial Day and Independence Day holidays.

Game Warden Bond excels at accident investigations. Over the past several years, he has been the lead investigator for three extremely serious watercraft investigations. Two of these accidents involved fatalities while the third involved serious bodily injuries. Due to Game Warden Bond's investigative skills and detailed accident reports, the individuals responsible for the fatal accidents were found guilty of vehicular homicide and held accountable for their actions. In the serious injury accident trial, the District Attorney and some jurors stated that Game Warden Bond's testimony and his ability to present the facts in a clear, creditable and understandable manner made it easy to find the defendant guilty of three counts of aggravated assault and BUI.

Game Warden Bond is also actively involved in providing watercraft and water-related safety training to new and tenured department officers. He provides training during the annual weeklong tech training on watercraft accident investigations and assists with watercraft violation scenarios, including acting as a drunken boater. He also conducts hands-on watercraft safety programs with the local Safe Kids organization and participates in community-based adult watercraft safety programs. 🌟

How to nominate a boating officer

NASBLA's Butch Potts Memorial Award, known more commonly as the Boating Officer of the Year Award, is presented annually to the boating law enforcement officer who has made outstanding contributions to the field of boating law enforcement.

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

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

Nomination forms are available electronically to each state boating law administrator in January of each year. Additional information on the program is available online at <http://www.nasbla.org>. 🌟

continued from page 2

Course to follow this spring, the NASBLA BOAT Program provides the first-ever national, standardized training platform for all marine patrol officers, regardless of their agency affiliation. The BOAT Program, however, is actually much bigger than just the three operator-specific courses described above.

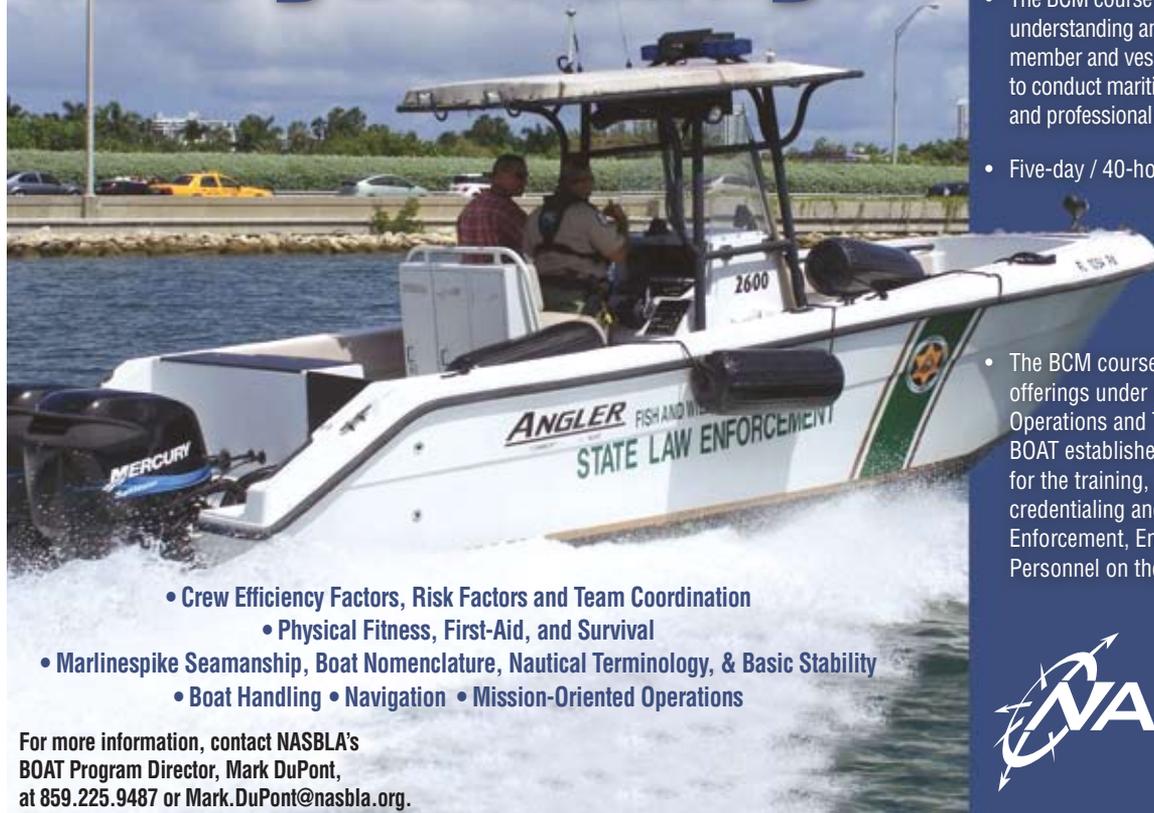
Moving forward, all of NASBLA's officer training programs will be offered under the BOAT Program brand, and by the end of this fiscal year alone NASBLA will have an officer training course catalog that numbers as many as one dozen individual, criteria-based courses for the marine patrol officer. With courses ranging from our traditional Boating Accident Investigation and Boating Under the Influence Detection and Enforcement courses to a brand-new Officer Water Survival Course, and a first-ever online course to teach Nav Rules enforcement, NASBLA is literally setting the standard for marine patrol officer training nationwide.

Not only is NASBLA offering the finest in officer development curriculum and subject matter expertise through our cadre of professional instructors, but we are also developing the credentialing systems and national standards upon which future course offerings will be based. For boating agencies, NASBLA is developing a systematic training and credential-

ing program that will ensure our member agencies and other boating authorities have access to the highest caliber course content along with professional instructors who have the experience and expertise to effectively deliver the curriculum. NASBLA's commitment to a two-tiered training program also provides both for direct delivery of training to officers, as well as for the development of in-state instructor capabilities through our subject-specific, train-the-trainer programs.

Although it has become somewhat cliché these days to suggest that "our people are our greatest asset," with respect to our line of work, they are our ONLY tangible asset. Whether it is teaching in the classroom, presenting before a community forum, enforcing laws on the water or responding in moments of local, regional or national crisis, our officers are the primary interface between our policies and programs and the boating public. Our officers are the collective face of our agencies and the heart and soul of our safety and security missions. NASBLA will continue to find ways to recognize exemplary performance among our marine patrol officers, as we redouble our efforts to enhance their training, their capabilities and their capacity to make our waterways safe and enjoyable. 🌟

Are you ready?



NASBLA now offers the **Basic Crew Member Course**

- The BCM course provides a basic understanding and skills for the crew member and vessel operator necessary to conduct maritime missions in a safe and professional manner.
- Five-day / 40-hour course
- The BCM course is one of several course offerings under NASBLA's Boat Operations and Training (BOAT) Program. BOAT establishes a national standard for the training, qualification, credentialing and typing of Marine law Enforcement, Emergency and Rescue Personnel on the water.

- Crew Efficiency Factors, Risk Factors and Team Coordination
- Physical Fitness, First-Aid, and Survival

- Marlinespike Seamanship, Boat Nomenclature, Nautical Terminology, & Basic Stability
- Boat Handling • Navigation • Mission-Oriented Operations

For more information, contact NASBLA's
BOAT Program Director, Mark DuPont,
at 859.225.9487 or Mark.DuPont@nasbla.org.



Study reveals role of boat shows in consumer choice

Boat shows are found to be one of the leading influencers among boat buyers, according to a recent study by Foresight Research, a full-service marketing research company.

Among its findings, the first-of-its-kind study of marketing channels revealed that:

- Nearly six in 10 new boat buyers (57%) attended at least one boat show in the 12 months prior to buying their boat.
- Buyers said boat shows have the most influence during the interest/consideration phase of the purchase process. Boat show attendees often “discover” brands they may not have known about.
- Among buyers who attended a boat show, 70% purchased their new boat within three months of attending the show.

The study focused on marketing channels including dealership experience, the Internet, boat shows, print articles, brochures, print advertising, boat dealer sales events/races/seminars, TV advertising and programming, direct mail, social media and radio. The findings are the result of interviews among 3,295 boat buyers who purchased a boat between January 2009 and August 2010. The study looked at behaviors, information received and how buyers were influenced to select the boat they did.

Of note, consumers highly influenced by boat shows ranked the ability to compare boats/models/prices and the ability to board boats as the most influential elements. Foresight will publish in-depth reports on the marketing channels that have the most influence on purchase. These analyses will include boat shows, the dealership experience, and the Internet. The report is being provided to NMMA members at no cost as a member benefit. Non-members can purchase it for \$3,600 by contacting Ron Hein at ronh@foresightresearch.com; 248.608.1870, ext. 18.

Muldoon honored with Herreshoff Trophy

US SAILING, the national governing body of the sport, awarded its prestigious Nathanael G. Herreshoff Trophy to Jim Muldoon for his outstanding contributions to the sport of sailing in the U.S. over many years. Muldoon, a former president of US SAILING, has been a strong advocate of community sailing programs at the grassroots level,

especially in the areas of youth sailing, training and safety. He received the award during US SAILING’s annual meeting in October.



Research shows that among boat buyers who attend a boat show, 70 percent purchase their new boat within three months of attending the show. USCG photo

Muldoon has held more than 30 leadership positions over the years, including chair of the Department of Homeland Security’s National Boating Safety Advisory Council, member of the Board of Directors and chair of the Development Committee for the Coast Guard Foundation, founder and president of The Brendan Sailing Training Program for Youth with Learning Differences, and founding board member and vice president of the National Sailing Hall

of Fame. He also has served US SAILING in numerous capacities, including as president of the organization, vice president of the Government Relations Committee, administrative division director, and chairman of the Training Committee.



Jim Muldoon receives Herreshoff Trophy. US SAILING photo/Chris Petracco

“I’ve witnessed firsthand how sailing can change lives,” Muldoon reflected. “Through the Special Olympics, the many wonderful community sailing programs around the country, and our own Brendan program for kids with learning differences, I believe sailing is transformative. For everything it has brought to my life, I believe I owe that experience to anyone who wants it. That’s why I am so committed to making sailing accessible for everyone – regardless of economic status and physical or intellectual ability.”

New coalition to focus on nation's working waterways and waterfronts

Representatives from federal, state and local governments and organizations have formed a National Working Waterways & Waterfronts Coalition. The coalition was organized as part of the Working Waterways and Waterfronts National Symposium on Water Access held Sept. 27-30 in Portland, Maine.

Sea Grant programs from around the country, including Maine Sea Grant and Virginia Sea Grant, who were lead hosts of the symposium, and Florida Sea Grant, will partner with the Rockland-based Island Institute, Coastal Enterprises Inc., and the Urban Harbors Institute at the University of Massachusetts Boston to form an initial steering committee that will explore funding mechanisms and organizational structure.

The primary focus of the coalition is education and awareness of the value of working waterways and waterfronts to local economies. A second objective of the coalition will be to serve as a resource to policymakers at the national level. For example, symposium keynote speaker and NOAA Deputy Administrator Dr. Larry Robinson highlighted opportunities for the 220 people gathered at the symposium to engage in the new National Ocean Policy.

Coalition members hope that an organized presence will leverage support for several bills under consideration in both the House and Senate that would provide funding to keep working waterfronts and waterways intact.

More information about the symposium and follow-up activities can be found at <http://www.wateraccessus.com>.

Brunswick Boat Group, United States Power Squadrons partner for safety



Brunswick Corporation, the world's largest marine manufacturer, has partnered with the United States Power Squadrons (USPS) to conduct boater education through participating Brunswick boat brand dealerships across the United States. USPS is the largest not-for-profit boating organization in the United States,

with more than 45,000 members dedicated to making boating safer and more enjoyable by conducting courses in seamanship, navigation and more.



“As industry leaders, we seized this opportunity to positively impact boating enjoyment,” said Brunswick Boat Group President Andy Graves. “By giving our customers easy access to education by seasoned boaters, we hope to improve the ownership experience and potentially enhance boating safety.”

Classes and seminars range from beginner to expert levels

covering a wide variety of topics including navigation, “Rules of the Road,” knot tying, electronics, trailering, and more. Qualified Power Squadrons personnel conduct the courses using facilities provided by participating Brunswick dealers.

“We are delighted that the Brunswick Boat Group embraces the importance of educating boaters before they take to the water,” said Frank A. Dvorak, USPS’s chief commander. “This will improve the boating experience by helping boaters be safer on the water as well as avoid costly tickets or embarrassing mistakes. The more competent the boater, the better time they will have on the water. Brunswick understands that.”

IBEX to remain in Louisville for foreseeable future

from Boating Industry

Thom Dammrich, president of the National Marine Manufacturers Association, says anyone who attended and experienced last year’s IBEX in Louisville no longer has doubts about the new location.



The International Boatbuilders’ Exhibition and Conference, which in 2010 moved from Miami and added the Marine Aftermarket Accessories Trade Show (MAATS), saw attendance increase 13 percent. IBEX is produced by Professional BoatBuilder magazine & National Marine Manufacturers Association.

“We expected attendance to be up,” Dammrich said. “We were tracking up 12 percent during pre-registration and had strong onsite registration. We are very pleased with this increase in attendance and so were the exhibitors.”

Dammrich suggested part of the increase could be attributed to the addition of MAATS, but he said there is no way to know for sure, as NMMA is still analyzing traffic.

“We had almost exactly the total space we expected and more exhibitors as we saw the number of exhibiting companies increase from 480 to 540,” Dammrich said.

“Our vision is to continue to grow IBEX as the place where the business of boating gets done,” he said.

And for the moment, it looks like any growth will continue to occur in Louisville.

“We will be in Louisville for the next two years and potentially beyond,” Dammrich said. “We will always listen to the attendees and exhibitors and work to meet their needs. No location is out of the question for the future, but the plan is to be in Louisville for the foreseeable future.”

Mark your calendars for IBEX 2011

October 17-19, 2011

(Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday pattern)

Kentucky Exposition Center Louisville, Kentucky



Jeff Hoedt
Chief, Boating Safety
Division Office
of Auxiliary and
Boating Safety
U.S. Coast Guard

An honorable mission Team effort benefits boating safety

Whether you're an employee of an agency that provides service to the public, a member of a volunteer organization, or any part of the boating safety team, you appreciate knowing that the efforts that you put forth are to improve the well-being of our neighbors, family and friends. Odds are that's why you do what you do - to help others. You're motivated knowing that your efforts to prevent accidents and to rescue people in trouble provide a caring and needed service to the boating community. The reward is the success of your efforts, whether it's a rescue in a harrowing situation or the implementation of an initiative that prevents a boater from getting into such a situation in the first place.

Particularly when I look at those of you on the front line providing these services, I feel the sense of honor that emulates from you - as it should. You're proud, yet humble, knowing that what you do is for the greater good. It's not a way to get rich or to get attention.

Rather, your efforts provide a selfless service to others in need.

For all of you in the boating safety community, thanks for what you do. You are often the unsung hero. Yet, what you do is so important to helping others and enriching the lives of your community. Your efforts deserve recognition on an ongoing basis as well as when special opportunities present themselves.

This issue of *Small Craft Advisory* happens to be one of those special opportunities. It's a time when we can recognize and give well-deserved thanks to some of the most deserving officers in the field. To the selected Boating Officers of the Year - at the state, regional and national levels - Bravo Zulu. Through your ongoing dedication, selflessness and hard work, you provide an incredible service to your boating community. We recognize that and offer a sincere thank-you for all that you do!

Learning from the past to improve future boating

*By Michael Baron, Program Operations Branch, Boating Safety Division,
Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety, U.S. Coast Guard*

Dr. Carl Sagan, American astronomer, writer and scientist, said, "You have to know the past to understand the future."

As I was researching information for what has become one of my favorite annual projects, writing an article for the boating officers of the year edition of the *Small Craft Advisory*, I was reminded of an article from The New York Times, which boldly announced:

**OPPOSITION GROWS AGAINST
FRYE BILL, Motor Boat Owners in
Arms Against Life-Preserver Measure
in Congress.**

This wasn't ripped from today's headlines - it was dated March 20, 1910, serving as a true testament to the adage that "the more things change, the more they stay the same." Today's recreational boaters hold similar beliefs to boaters 100 years ago in that boating (or individual) safety is not a paramount concern to them.

As we celebrate the 50 years of achievement that NASBLA has garnered, we bask in that rich part of recreational boating safety history that the organization has written for itself, its members, its partners and the



In 1960, the year of NASBLA's founding, the number of boats in the U.S. was 2.4 million. By 2009 the number increased to 12.7 million. Georgia DNR photo

boating safety officers whose outstanding achievements are chronicled on the preceding pages. We are reminded by an article from a century ago that we will meet resistance from the boating community even when our goal is noble: making boating safe and enjoyable for all who take to our waterways.

According to a 1908 report from the U.S. Department of Commerce and Labor, there was an estimated 40,000 powerboats. In January of 1910 the number of boats had grown to 150,000. Fast-forward to 1960 – the year of NASBLA's founding – and the number had grown to 2,450,484. By 2009 the Recreational Boating Statistics reported 12,721,541 registered boats in the United States.

What will the number of recreational boats look like when NASBLA celebrates its 100th anniversary? I won't even venture a guess, but I would surmise that some of the same issues that we face in our community today will be the same if we don't continue to try to change those risky behaviors such as not wearing life jackets and boating while impaired.

So how do we get there, and who is going to be on the front lines carrying out the mission? It's the men and women who make up the marine law enforcement community. And what a community it is! They represent many different types of agencies, agencies which in some cases go back 144 years, as is the case with the Maine Marine Patrol which traces its roots back to 1867.

Marine patrol officers go by many different titles – Trooper, Deputy, Conservation Officer, Ranger and Game Warden, to name a few. They have a rich and storied history as they

represent agencies and carry on the legacy of the marine patrol officers that came before them. While the duties of today's marine patrol officers do often carry on the legacy of the earlier officers, their jobs are also vastly different as today's marine patrol officers carry out myriad duties that go beyond what was expected of officers and those agencies that witnessed NASBLA's emergence in 1960.

The success that has been realized in the boating safety community is a direct reflection of the officers in the field – the men and women who operate the boats that interact with the public on a daily basis. These are the individuals who take a mission such as Operation Dry Water and, in one weekend, board 43,203 boats, contact 73,875 boaters and remove over 300 impaired operators from waterways across our nation. It is not just these highly publicized events that provide solid law enforcement; it's the professionalism and dedication that these officers display that make them some of the best law enforcement officers in the United States.

Congratulations to NASBLA on your 50th anniversary. Congratulations to all the officers who have been recognized as boating officers of the year. And, a sincere "Thank You!" to all those officers who carry out the boating safety mission across this country – your efforts don't go unnoticed.

George Santayana, a Spanish poet and philosopher said, "Those who cannot remember the past are doomed to repeat it." Most take this quote as a forbearer of hardship. I choose to take a positive twist, and in the case of NASBLA repeating its history, it's a good sign for recreational boating and its participants. 🌟



Matthew Long
NASBLA Government
Affairs Director

2010 elections and their impact on recreational boating

Not failing to live up to the hype, the 2010 midterm elections provided a great deal of political change. The most notable change is the switch in party control of the House of Representatives to the Republicans. Enjoying the largest majority in more than 60 years, Republicans have a comfortable margin of power as we enter into the 112th Congress.

While the Republicans did not gain control of the Senate, the Democratic majority was narrowed, harkening back to the power-sharing days of the early 2000s.

As always, there were several upsets in the 2010 elections, including the loss of 18-term House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee Chairman James Oberstar. Congressman Oberstar's experience with transportation issues, including Trust Fund reauthorization, is a definite loss for the committee.

Another noteworthy loss was that of Congressman Gene Taylor (Mississippi). Representative Taylor, from Biloxi, Mississippi, is retired Coast Guard and most recently served as chair of the Transportation Committee's Subcommittee on Coast Guard. Congressman Taylor has long been a good friend to NASBLA and the recreational boating community, serving as the co-chair of the Congressional Boating Caucus and the author of many bills seeking to help the recreational boating community. His loss in November will be deeply felt, particularly as we enter into reauthorization.

The current ranking Republican on the Transportation and Infrastructure committee, John Mica (Florida), is the presumptive committee chair, and assuming the role of Ranking Democrat will be Nick Rahall (West Virginia). The direct impact that this will have to the Surface Transportation Bill, which includes Trust Fund reauthorization, is unknown at this time.

Congress will not work on the highway bill

during the lame duck session, which means it will receive a temporary continuing resolution with work beginning in earnest in early 2011. If Congressman Mica keeps the same planned version, which was almost \$500 billion, he will have to find a new and creative funding mechanism, or raise the gas tax. In the current political climate, neither seems particularly likely.

Complicating the legislative arena is the divided Congress. Although it will be easy for the Republican majority in the House to pass legislation, reconciling or even gaining interest on the Senate side will prove to be a challenge. While certain necessary legislative items are bound to pass easily, anything more controversial will be faced with a long and drawn-out challenge.

The elections will affect NASBLA and our members on several levels. At the federal level, the divided Congress will dramatically slow down Trust Fund reauthorization efforts. However, the impact to passage of further port security issues should not be negatively impacted by the makeup of the 112th Congress.

At the state level, certain boating safety measures may prove to be more cumbersome to pass, due to not only political positions but also to legislative inexperience. Now is a great opportunity for NASBLA members to introduce themselves and their departments to the new class of state legislators.

The inevitable gridlock in Congress will make for an incredibly frustrating two years leading to the 2012 Presidential election and the composition of the Statehouses will also prove to frustrate efforts rather than progress them. NASBLA will continue to work with Congress and our partners in order to progress important legislative issues, regardless of legislative gridlock. ✪



I stopped a boat, and the woman was holding a baby, maybe six months old. I took it kind of personal and said, “Ma'am, why don't you have that baby in a life jacket?”

She said, “Well, he gets cranky when I put him in a life jacket,” and I told her, “I get cranky when you don't have him in a life jacket.”

She got a ticket for that.

Texas Game Warden Jonathan Gray in his own words from the video testimonial “Kids and PFDs: It's the Law,” part of Boat Ed's “Safety Matters” campaign, a growing collection of video testimonials about safe boating.
www.kalkomey.com/safetymatters



2011

RECREATIONAL BOATING SAFETY CALENDAR

MARCH

1
National Association of State Boating Law Administrators Executive Board Meeting
Lexington, Kentucky
<http://www.nasbla.org>
ron@nasbla.org
859.225.9487

2-3
National Association of State Boating Law Administrators Spring BLA Workshop
Lexington, Kentucky
<http://www.nasbla.org>
ron@nasbla.org
859.225.9487

4
National Association of State Boating Law Administrators Engineering, Reporting and Analysis Committee Meeting
Lexington, Kentucky
<http://www.nasbla.org>
deb@nasbla.org
859.225.9487

4-5
National Association of State Boating Law Administrators Enforcement & Training Committee Meeting
Lexington, Kentucky
<http://www.nasbla.org>
john.fetterman@nasbla.org
859.225.9487

5-6
National Association of State Boating Law Administrators Education & Outreach Committee Meeting
Savannah, Georgia
<http://www.nasbla.org>
tom@nasbla.org
859.225.9487

5-6
American Canoe Association Board of Directors Meeting
Savannah, Georgia
<http://www.americancanoe.org>
cstec@americancanoe.org
540.907.4460, ext 104

6-9
National Safe Boating Council National Water Safety Congress International Boating & Water Safety Summit
Savannah, Georgia
<http://www.safeboatingcouncil.org>
<http://www.watersafetycongress.org>

18-19
National Association of State Boating Law Administrators Vessel Identification, Registration & Titling Committee Meeting
Chattanooga, Tennessee
<http://www.nasbla.org>
ron@nasbla.org
859.225.9487

20-23
International Association of Marine Investigators Annual Training Seminar
Chattanooga, Tennessee
<http://www.iamimarine.org/iamimarine@aol.com>

25-26
National Boating Federation Annual Meeting
San Diego, California
<http://www.n-b-f.org>
410.573.1494

APRIL
1-3
National Boating Safety Advisory Council Spring Meeting
Washington, D.C. area
<http://homeport.uscg.mil/NBSAC>
Jeffrey.A.Ludwig@uscg.mil

11-15
National Association of State Boating Law Administrators National Boating Accident Investigation & Analysis – Level I Training
Salt Lake City, Utah
<http://www.nasbla.org>
sam@nasbla.org
859.225.9487

MAY
17
Safe Boating Week Congressional Reception
Washington, D.C.

16-20
National Association of State Boating Law Administrators National Boating Accident Investigation & Analysis – Level I Training
Buzzards Bay, Massachusetts
<http://www.nasbla.org>
sam@nasbla.org
859.225.9487

21
Inflatable Life Jacket World Record Day
<http://www.ReadySetInflate.com>
outreach@safeboatingcouncil.org
703.361.4294

21-27
National Safe Boating Week
<http://www.safeboatingcampaign.com>

JUNE
4-12
National Fish & Boating Week
<http://www.takemefishing.org>

5-8
Western States Boating Administrators Association Annual Meeting
Las Vegas, Nevada
http://bit.ly/_wsbaa

6-10
National Association of State Boating Law Administrators National Boating Accident Investigation & Analysis – Level I Training
Dunbar, West Virginia
<http://www.nasbla.org>
sam@nasbla.org
859.225.9487

11
National Marina Day
<http://www.nationalmarinaday.org>

15-17
National Association of State Boating Law Administrators Executive Board Meeting
Santa Fe, New Mexico
<http://www.nasbla.org>
ron@nasbla.org
859.225.9487

24-26
Operation Dry Water
<http://operationdrywater.org>

JULY
18-22
National Association of State Boating Law Administrators New BLA Academy
Lexington, Kentucky
<http://www.nasbla.org>
ron@nasbla.org
859.225.9487

RBS Calendar

If you have an event or meeting for the RBS Calendar, please e-mail editor@nasbla.org. You can also submit events to our online calendar at <http://bit.ly/RBScalendar>.