



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

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



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**NASBLA  
Recognizes  
Outstanding  
Officers**

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**Officers Assist  
States After  
Natural Disasters**

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**Annual  
Conference  
Offers Bounty of  
Information**

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administered by the U.S. Coast Guard





Charlie Sledd  
NASBLA President



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

## Continuing the Forward Movement

It's a tremendous honor and privilege to have been elected president of this exemplary organization. It is humbling to follow in the footsteps of Randy Edwards, Fred Messmann, Alvin Taylor, Steve Hall, Mike Wilson, Paul Donheffner, Bill Engfer, Ted Woolley, Ed Carter, and so many others. All of these folks have worked hard to do the business of our association, and each helped improve NASBLA during their tenure as president.

At the conference awards banquet, I mentioned people who are directly responsible for me even being in a position to become president of NASBLA – folks like Nancy Jamerson, Virginia's former boating law administrator and a real Southern lady, and Bill Garner, a true Southern gentleman and my assigned mentor as the "new" Virginia BLA. I am fortunate now to add another prince of a gentleman to that list – Randy Edwards.

As president, Randy undertook, among the usual duties that come with the office, the task of addressing strategic vision, board governance, bylaws changes, board structure and duties, and numerous other business processes and procedures. These charges make our organization stronger by providing a firm foundation for the way we do business. The challenge to those that follow in Randy's footsteps will be to "continue the forward movement." Randy, please know that we are all much better because you followed your vision for NASBLA!

We recently finished another outstanding annual conference, and we should all recognize the tremendous effort put into this event by our NASBLA staff and our host, the Oregon State Marine Board, under the superb guidance of Paul Donheffner. To all involved, many thanks for an excellent job!

I'd like to thank all members of this year's Executive Board for their willingness to be part of the association's leadership. Jeff Johnson (Vice President), Corby Christensen (Treasurer), Richard Moore, John Fetterman, Ray Tsuneyoshi (Members-At-Large), and Randy Edwards (Past President) have my sincere gratitude and appreciation. I also thank each of the committee chairs for the time, knowledge and expertise that they will invest in our business this year. People

are what makes the NASBLA family special, and the Executive Board and Committee Chair folks are all some of the finest!

At our conference opening ceremony, Lt. Col. Brian Spillman touched us with his words about the Katrina disaster. His praise of the many enforcement officers who have worked to help the victims of this catastrophic event left us with a strong sense of pride. We're proud that our law enforcement folks did exactly what we've always known that they would – put others before themselves. In this issue are articles about our Officers of the Year and about the public safety response to our natural disasters, a fitting follow-up to Brian's heartfelt remarks.

The Executive Board, the NASBLA staff and the membership have a lot of work in front of us this year. We will continue to address NASBLA's strategic vision and strategic plan. We will continue to enhance our governance process that guides the association's continual development. We will continue refining our standard business practices so we're doing business in the best possible fashion. We will look at the critical issues facing the states and their recreational boating safety programs as we develop the committee work for this year. We will also continue to work closely with our NASBLA partners, for their input is so important to our work.

As we "continue the forward movement," I ask that everyone reflect on the significance of the Wallop-Breaux reauthorization, and the many folks who worked so diligently for passage of this legislation on behalf of boating safety. While we will be receiving substantially more money for our boating education, enforcement and access programs, the real challenge to each of us is putting the funds to the best use possible so that recreational boating remains both safe and enjoyable. Without any doubt, we are up to that challenge!

As your NASBLA president, I pledge my full commitment to be "fully engaged, thoroughly knowledgeable about our business, and actively involved in our issues." I ask that each of you continue to join me in this effort. Thanks to each one of you for your support.



**PRESIDENT**  
Charlie Sledd

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### ABOUT THE COVER

Officer Tim Baumgarten performs an afloat field sobriety test on a boater. A 23-year veteran with the Arizona Game and Fish Department, Officer Baumgarten was selected as NASBLA's Boating Law Enforcement Officer of the Year. Officer Baumgarten is recognized throughout Arizona and the western states as an expert in watercraft law enforcement. He has also established himself as a leading authority in operating under the influence (OUI) enforcement practices and techniques, boat theft investigations and watercraft accident investigations.

*Photo courtesy Arizona Game and Fish Department*

## The New NASBLA



Beginning last November, the agency's Executive Board began a strategic planning process to help focus and refine NASBLA. In the time since then, the Executive Board has met numerous times to discuss ways to strengthen the governance and leadership of the nonprofit organization. With the help of Jerry Kappel, a strategic planning consultant, NASBLA is implementing a new mission and strategic goals.

More information about these exciting changes will be covered in future issues of *Small Craft Advisory*.

## BUI Enforcement Training Available

NASBLA has scheduled five Boating Under the Influence Detection and Enforcement training seminars for 2006. Produced with grant assistance from the U.S. Coast Guard, the training is designed to provide officers with the comprehensive knowledge and skills necessary to reduce the number of alcohol-related accidents and fatalities on the water. The seminars were also created to foster a stronger and more visible deterrent to alcohol use among boaters.

The 2006 BUI seminars are as follows:

**February 13-15** . . . . . **Des Moines, Iowa**  
**March 13-15** . . **Albuquerque, New Mexico**  
**March 27-29** . . . . . **Ashburn, Virginia**  
**April 3-5** . . . . . **Ft. Worth, Texas**  
**June 19-21** . . . . . **Maine**

The course consists of 24 hours of classroom instruction. Topics covered include detection and general deterrence; afloat and ashore field sobriety testing; and preparing for trial.

The training is intended for active local, state and federal marine law enforcement officers. Registration is free, but each seminar is limited to 32 students, so be sure to register early. For additional information and to register online, visit [www.nasbla.org](http://www.nasbla.org). If you have any questions, please contact Chris Moore at 859.225.9487 or [chris@nasbla.org](mailto:chris@nasbla.org).

## Guide Offers Advice for Managing Multiple-Use Waterways

The National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA), in partnership with the National Water Safety Congress (NWSC), is pleased to present the second edition of *A Guide for Multiple Use Waterway Management*.

Focusing on the issues surrounding multiple-use waterways and the management of them, this updated Guide revisits many of the topics presented in the edition first published by the NWSC in 1996. But its perspective, structure and scope reflect the evolution in experience with multiple-use waterway issues and management strategies over time, as well as the tremendous amount of information that is rapidly becoming available electronically via the Internet.

The publication will serve as a valuable resource tool for resource

managers, regulators and planners at the regional, state and local levels by offering guidance and possible management tools. This Guide begins by taking a look at the trends, factors, opportunities and even stumbling points involved in planning for and managing those multiple use public waterways today. The Guide's core consists of "lessons worth learning" for formulating viable multiple-use strategies, plans and solutions.

*A Guide for Multiple Use Waterway Management* is available for \$75 (US) per copy, plus \$4.95 shipping & handling. To order, fax your request on agency letterhead to 859.231.6403. Agency check, purchase order or Visa, MasterCard & American Express are accepted. If you have questions, please call 859.225.9487.

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## Training Available for Boat Accident Investigation

NASBLA will offer five comprehensive (Level 1) boat accident investigation and analysis seminars in 2006. Produced with grant assistance from the U.S. Coast Guard, the comprehensive course is designed to provide investigating officers with all the tools they need to investigate a recreational boating accident completely and accurately.

The 2006 Boating Accident Investigation seminars are scheduled as follows:

**January 9-13** . . . . . **Kissimmee, FL**  
**January 30-February 3** . **Chattanooga, TN**  
**March 27-31** . . . . . **Salt Lake City, UT**  
**April 24-28** . . . . . **Ashburn, VA**  
**May 15-19** . . . . . **Indianapolis, IN**

Consisting of 37 hours of instruction, the boat accident investigation seminars are intended for active local, state and federal marine law enforcement officers who are already versed in boating enforcement but who lack technical accident investigation training.

The course covers accidents and statistics, vessel construction, standards and regulations, electricity, navigational lights, ignition protection, carbon monoxide, fuel systems, fires and explosions, ventilation, diagramming, stability, capacity and loading, collision basics, memorandums of understanding, public relations, court preparation and environmental concerns.

The seminar includes the popular vessel systems examinations and examinations of actual case studies, with students preparing reports and giving presentations to the group on their findings.

Each seminar is limited to 60 students, so please register early. For additional information and to register online, visit [www.nasbla.org](http://www.nasbla.org). If you have any questions, please contact Chris Moore at 859.225.9487 or [chris@nasbla.org](mailto:chris@nasbla.org).

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# Boating Community Rallies Support for Disaster-Stricken Gulf States

On the morning of August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina slammed into the Gulf Coast. Its storm surge soon caused several sections of the levee system in New Orleans to collapse, flooding most of the city. This and other major damage to the coastal regions of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama made Katrina the most destructive and costliest natural disaster in the history of the United States. The death toll stands at more than 1,300 and damages are estimated between \$71 and \$130 billion. In addition, the hurricane displaced more than a million people from their homes.

Just four weeks later, on September 24, Hurricane Rita also hit the Gulf Coast. This hurricane is on record as the strongest measured hurricane ever to have entered the Gulf of Mexico. Luckily, the effects of this hurricane were not as severe as expected. Overall damage from Rita is estimated at \$8 to \$11 billion, and the reported death toll is around 120.

While these late-season hurricanes made landfall and caused much devastation along the Gulf Coast, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita have undeniably affected people around the world. These natural disasters have triggered an outpouring of support in the form of funding, supplies, housing, assistance in law enforcement, search and rescue, recovery and more.

In the recreational boating community, natural resource departments, conservation agencies, marine patrol units, manufacturers, dealers and others around the United States have jumped in to help by volunteering their time and abilities, providing supplies and raising money.

This help has been greatly appreciated by those living in the Gulf States.

"The response from all other states was enormous," said Major Kenny Neely, Mississippi's boating law administrator. "It was great to see other agencies both within Mississippi and from other states work so well together during this disaster. There is absolutely no way we could ever repay the people that assisted us during this time other than to let them know how appreciative we are for everything they did to help the citizens of our state."

"On behalf of the citizens of Louisiana, the executive branch of state

personnel to respond to the Florida panhandle in the event that Hurricane Katrina made a hard right turn into Florida. In the end, the team was strategically staging for an unprecedented out-of-state natural disaster response to Mississippi.

Using the many lessons learned during the 2004 hurricane season, Florida activated what has come to be known as "Team Florida," which consists of multi-agency personnel assets with specialized experience, equipment and abilities. These state personnel work in support of Florida's Urban Search and Rescue Teams and provide the critical support necessary to save and sustain life.

Colonel Julie Jones said, "Florida has seen the benefits of assembling multi-agency teams in order to accomplish the search and rescue mission based on expertise and equipment. Our unwanted experience with hurricanes has made us experts in our mission of saving lives."

"Last year we capitalized on the specialties contained within various agencies and found that amazing things could be accomplished when 'teams' of critical personnel were formed," said Richard

Moore, Florida's boating law administrator.

In forming this team, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) brings boats, airboats, 4x4 trucks, swamp buggies, mobile command trailers, chain saws, generators, ATVs, large offshore patrol boats, mobile radio and boat repair vehicles, and helicopters. The Florida National Guard brings Special Forces personnel along with small inflatable boats. Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) personnel provide ATVs, 4x4 vehicles, generators, and other specialized equipment. The State Fire Marshal's Office sends personnel with 4x4 vehicles and Bobcat-type front-



Neighborhoods throughout New Orleans remained flooded for weeks following Hurricane Katrina and the subsequent breaking of Lake Pontchartrain's levees. Thousands of people have been evacuated from the area by volunteer rescue crews. Photo by Jocelyn Augustino/FEMA

government and [the Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries] and its employees, I want to extend my deepest appreciation for all the assistance, encouragement, kind thoughts and prayers," said Lt. Colonel Brian Spillman, Louisiana's boating law administrator. "We face a long road to recovery. We are stronger as an agency and are going to replace, restore and rebuild those things we need to live our daily lives."

## Florida Employs Its Hurricane Experience

Two days before Katrina made landfall in Louisiana and Mississippi, Florida's State Emergency Response Team (SERT) activated a contingency of

end loaders and the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FACS) officers supply 4x4 trucks.

The team is broken into smaller integrated components and begins entry into the affected areas while tropical storm force winds are still aloft. Responsibilities of the state team included search and rescue, clearing access to critical roadways and boat ramps, providing security escorts for fuel trucks going to area hospitals, asset planning and coordination, getting humanitarian relief to victims, providing aerial assessments and support including delivery of food and water to isolated victims, securing shipping channels littered with obstructions to navigation, conducting door-to-door assessments for search and rescue efforts, evacuating victims, searching for victims using Forward-Looking Infrared Radar, and general security in storm-ravaged areas.

During the response to Hurricane Katrina, Florida sent many assets to work the Mississippi Gulf coast. FWC rotated over 200 officers in and out, and they were accompanied at any one time by at least 19 soldiers from the Florida National Guard Special Forces Unit, 14 FDLE agents, nine officers with FACS, and 24 officers from the State Fire Marshal's Office. Additional support personnel accompanied the team and provided administrative support, radio system set-up and maintenance, public information services, and equipment repair and maintenance.

State personnel and equipment assets entered Mississippi as the storm was continuing inland on August 29, and the last of them finally returned home nearly a month later.

"Florida officers were honored to be able to provide much needed assistance to another state in time of crisis and play a valuable role in the overall relief effort in Mississippi's Gulf Coast region," said Moore.

### **Lone Star State Loans Personnel and Equipment**

On Aug. 30, a team of 53 Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) game wardens from all parts of the state entered Louisiana with 52 vehicles and 50 boats, marking the first time Texas game wardens have been deployed for disaster relief out of state. Texas game wardens are trained and experienced in flood rescue and water safety, with boats and equipment often

used during flash floods and other natural disasters.

Every day, the department team received orders from Baton Rouge, where Maj. Bill Robinson of Austin was TPWD's command center representative. They would leave the First Methodist Church in Gonzales about 75 miles north of New Orleans and head out on the day's mission. Maj. Robert Carlson of Rusk was creative at securing resources, and through his efforts the team got daily equipment repair and supplies. He also persuaded church members to "adopt" the TPWD team, which meant free hot meals, clean beds and a place to call home every night.

A three-mile line of TPWD vehicles, boats and trailers would then head down Interstate 10 into New Orleans. Delays caused by sniper fire from looters periodically brought the convoy to frustrating standstills of up to two hours.

The TPWD team's target areas were mostly in east New Orleans. These include low-income neighborhoods, apartment complexes and hospitals, where rescues were done by flat-bottom boats or airboats. The team also rescued 1,500 patients from Charity Hospital, which had inadequate electricity and water service.

"We had people in wheelchairs, we had to physically carry some people and we moved them all by boat to buses," said Maj. Butch Shoop, game warden regional director from Fort Worth, who was in charge of on-the-ground rescue operations.

The TPWD team went into east New Orleans, piloting boats down streets that had become canals. The area had become lawless, rife with looting and gunfire. Authorities shot and killed seven looters there the morning the TPWD team went in, and Shoop believes that helped make the situation more manageable.

"I had seven airboats running and I made everybody travel in twos and threes," Shoop said. "Each airboat had a driver, a gunner and a New Orleans policeman for directions."

On Sept. 5, the emotionally and physically drained first wave of game

wardens returned to Texas. They had worked more than 120 hours each in a single week. A new team of 53 game wardens from all parts of the state continued the effort until federal authorities assumed responsibility for the rescue operation.

"...from the A-team I never got a bad attitude, never an 'I don't want to do this, I don't want to be here,'" said Shoop. "These were 53 of the finest game wardens in Texas. They kept me going."

Col. Pete Flores, TPWD law enforcement director, added, "This past week, our game wardens have seen the best side of human nature, and the worst, and they've risen to the challenge. It's been one



The environment in the hurricane-stricken area became dangerous for many of the volunteers helping with rescue efforts. Officers were advised to use extreme caution in approaching houses to check for stranded residents. Photo courtesy Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries

of the most difficult assignments we've ever undertaken, but we are making a difference."

The Texas game wardens rescued nearly 5,000 hurricane victims. They logged some 7,000 hours in this effort, working mostly with officers of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries and the New Orleans Police Department.

### **New York Returns a Favor**

On September 17, 2001, Governor George E. Pataki signed legislation – six days after the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center in New York City – that enabled New York State to enter into the national Emergency Management Compact (EMAC) immediately. EMAC establishes a mutual partnership with other states to provide aid and assistance in times of emergency. Approved by Congress in 1996, 49 states, the District of

Columbia, and two territories have ratified this agreement.

EMAC provides for clear, predictable and standardized operating procedures for member states. Through the interstate agreement, a disaster-impacted state can request and receive assistance from other member states quickly and efficiently, resolving two key issues upfront: liability and reimbursement.

Immediately following New York's entrée in the agreement, 24 states sent thirty-seven emergency management specialists to assist in the response and recovery resulting from the WTC attack.

This September, it was New York's turn to lend a hand. Following the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina, New York sent 12 disaster management specialists to Mississippi to assist with response and recovery efforts, including command, operations, planning and logistics. Four personnel from the Division of State Police also assisted Louisiana State Police in coordinating a multi-agency law enforcement operations center. In addition, Metropolitan Transportation Authority dispatched 100 buses to help hurricane victims in Louisiana.

"We are proud to be able to send these teams of experienced disaster management specialists to help our friends in Mississippi who have felt the wrath and experienced the devastation of Katrina," Governor Pataki said. "The thoughts and prayers of New Yorkers go out to Katrina's victims in Mississippi, Louisiana and Alabama and we want them to know that they are not alone in their hour of need – New York stands ready to do more."

Agencies providing personnel include the State Emergency Management Office (SEMO), the State Department of Environmental Conservation, the State Office of Fire Prevention and Control, the Division of State Police, the New York City Office of Emergency Management and the City of Oneonta.

SEMO Director James W. Tuffey said, "New York State has a long history, under Governor Pataki, of sending assistance to our sister states and countries during times of emergency. We are proud of these team members, and the men and women in state agencies supporting this effort to get



Immediately after Hurricane Katrina made landfall near New Orleans, law enforcement officers from around the country gathered supplies, boats and four-wheel drive vehicles and headed to the Gulf Area to lend a hand. A major task was evacuating residents who'd been stranded in their homes after the levies broke, causing the water from Lake Pontchartrain to flood the city. Photo courtesy Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency

assistance to the impacted states as quickly as possible."

This is not the first deployment of New York State personnel under EMAC. The state provided a team of nine disaster management specialists to Florida in July in response to Hurricane Dennis. In 2004, 20 disaster management and relief specialists assisted Florida when it was struck by four hurricanes in late August and September. New York dispatched those specialists while at the same time continuing to coordinate the national effort under the compact.

The Port Authority worked with FEMA and the Governor's offices in Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi to determine the long-term needs for staff expertise, equipment and material in rebuilding that region's transportation infrastructure. The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey has committed to provide engineering, architectural and operations staff as needed to assist with the long-term rebuilding process. In addition to these efforts, New York will continue to work with the governors of the three states to provide follow-up support and resources as requested.

### Pooling Their Resources

In addition to the generous help from Florida, Texas and New York, private businesses, nonprofit organizations and state agencies from all parts of the country sprang into action to give the Gulf States much-needed aid. Following are some examples of this much-appreciated help:

#### Alabama

The Alabama Marine Police Division is no stranger to assisting in the aftermath of natural disasters. The agency's Disaster Response Team has responded to every

natural disaster in Alabama for the past 10 years. This team also responds to any homeland security incidents within the state or offshore in the Gulf.

Twenty officers on this team assisted with search and rescue and law enforcement on land and water in Alabama. Another 26 officers were dispatched to Mississippi with 4-wheel-drive vehicles, shallow draft boats, night vision and thermal imaging devices, portable generators, chain saws and light sets.

#### Arizona

Arizona sent several hundred personnel from state, local and county law enforcement and fire agencies as well as members from the Arizona National Guard to the Gulf Coast. The Arizona Game and Fish Department provided 10 two-man patrol boat teams for a 20-day deployment.

#### Arkansas

More than 1,000 Arkansas Game and Fish Commission wildlife officers helped local officials with security in the Biloxi/Gulfport area after the hurricanes. Later officers again traveled to the area to help clear miles of roadways on Mississippi Wildlife Management Areas, conduct search and rescue operations off the Mississippi coast, and provide critical help to Salvation Army relief workers.

#### California

California sent disaster search teams, a personal watercraft team of EMS and enforcement officers as well as search and rescue people.

#### Georgia

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources sent approximately 60 employees to the Gulf area in the wake of the hurricanes. Their tasks included search and rescue, body recovery and law enforcement. In addition to their skills, they took general law enforcement equipment, firearms, waders, flashlights, night vision, water, etc.

### International Association of Marine Investigators

The International Association of Marine Investigators, along with manufacturers, marinas and private individuals, collected donated marine and

disaster relief equipment for the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries. The donated equipment, valued at approximately \$30,000, includes submersible flashlights, handheld GPS systems and marine radios, life jackets, lip balm, latex gloves, cleanup suits, and other items used in disaster recovery.

### Kansas

Officers with the Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks were on standby until the request for assistance came through the state emergency preparedness center. Several officers were then sent to Mississippi for recovery operations.

### Kawasaki

Kawasaki companies operating in the United States culminated their recent fundraising efforts for Hurricane Katrina relief with a total donation of \$259,254 to the American Red Cross. Kawasaki also donated \$100,000 worth of MULE™ utility vehicles for relief action in affected areas, and provided JET SKI® watercraft loan units to the Los Angeles Fire Department for search and rescue efforts while positioned in the Gulf Coast area.

### Kentucky

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources sent 23 law enforcement officers and 10 flood boats to assist Louisiana officials with Hurricane Katrina rescue and relief efforts. The Kentucky officers rescued 200 New Orleans residents stranded in their homes and on rooftops when levees protecting low-lying areas breeched under Katrina's torrential rains.

### Minnesota

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources sent 20 conservation officers with 10 vehicles and 10 flat-bottom motorboats, along with routine enforcement gear for working marine law enforcement. These officers spent seven days in the area helping with security, search and rescue, and evacuation of residents.

### Mississippi

Fifty officers with the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks spent two months performing various disaster relief tasks after the hurricanes. In addition to patrolling on land and water and performing search and rescue, the officers cleared roadways, provided security for the governor's visits and contacted victims' families.

### Missouri

Ten Missouri State Water patrol officers went to New Orleans with five 4-wheel drive vehicles and five rescue boats. Pulling on their experience from working flood disasters in their own state along the Mississippi and Missouri rivers, the officers spent a week helping with search and rescue in the city.

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration gave the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (DMR) \$200,000 in computing equipment to help replace equipment lost in Hurricane Katrina. Working with the DMR staff, NOAA's Coastal Data Development Center procured desktop computers, field survey laptops, hardware accessories, printers and projectors to help meet the agency's needs.

### South Carolina

Thirty-eight officers from the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources helped with search and rescue and security. They took 19 4x4 trucks and 19 boats and spent 10 days in the area.

### South Dakota

The Department of Game, Fish & Parks sent 10 employees with ATVs and boats to the Gulf area to assist with search and rescue and recovery efforts. However, when the team reached St. Louis, Katrina volunteers advised the officers to turn around because they did not feel additional search and rescue personnel were needed.

### Tennessee

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency sent 34 officers and two radio technicians to New Orleans. They took handheld GPS units, which were programmed with street maps of New Orleans and the surrounding area. They also took 10 boats for search and rescue, as well as the agency's mobile command center, equipped communications gear, first aid and rescue equipment, generators, extra food and water. The volunteers worked directly with other state agencies and with the Coast Guard helicopter rescue teams. During their seven days in the area, they directly evacuated over 240 people; carried food and water to several hundred more; ferried firefighters to burning buildings and took evacuees from the buildings; provided security for the evacuation buses; and performed law enforcement patrols.

### Zodiac

The Zodiac Academy/Bear Search and Rescue Foundation Hurricane Katrina rescue convoy arrived in New Orleans on Sept. 5 and began rigging and deploying more than two dozen boats and taking orders for more boats. These efforts were made possible with \$250,000 boat donation fund set up by Zodiac Group. In addition to providing boats, Zodiac also trained first responders on boat operations, captained the boats, provided parts and performed on-site repairs.

*Information for this article was compiled by Kimberly Hermes, editor of Small Craft Advisory.*

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In addition to rescuing stranded residents, volunteers also delivered various supplies to those who refused to leave their homes.  
*Photo courtesy Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources*



## Boating Law Enforcement

# 2005 OFFICERS OF THE YEAR



Brunswick Commercial & Government Products



Virginia DGLF



Minnesota DNR

With ever-evolving responsibilities, today's marine patrol officers find themselves doing much more than simply enforcing boating laws. They must also save lives, educate the public, guard our nation and its citizens, facilitate wildlife conservation, protect the environment, and much, much more.

The National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) recognizes the challenges and sacrifices these officers must endure. As a way to honor those who go beyond the call of duty, NASBLA implemented the Boating Law Enforcement Officer of the Year program. Established in 2000, this recognition program is sponsored by Brunswick Commercial & Government Products (formerly Boston Whaler Commercial & Government Products Inc.)

The Boating Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award is presented to deserving recipients at three levels – state, regional and national. The program is open to all commissioned, certified or sworn peace officers authorized by the state to enforce the recreational boating safety laws of that state.

The process starts with boating law administrators selecting their state-level **Boating Law Enforcement Officer of the Year**. From these state winners, three regional officers are chosen. Then the national officer is chosen from these three.

This year, we had candidates from 42 states and territories. We honor these officers in the following pages.

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

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# NATIONAL recipient



*Tim Baumgarten, an Arizona Game and Fish Department law enforcement officer, was named the Butch Potts National Boating Law Enforcement Officer of the Year during the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) awards banquet in Portland, Ore. NASBLA President Randy Edwards (at left) and Don Ellingsen (at right), representing Brunswick Commercial & Government Products Inc., which sponsors the award, presented Officer Baumgarten with the trophy.*

*"This was such a great honor. I have been involved with enforcing boating laws and boating safety for most of my career, and recently I've had the opportunity to become nationally involved with training officers to detect impaired boat operators. I've also become involved with a national effort to validate field sobriety testing on the water," said Baumgarten.*

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

Officer  
**Tim Baumgarten**  
Game and Fish Department  
**Arizona**

Officer Tim Baumgarten is a 23-year veteran with the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) and is currently assigned to the Kingman Regional Office as the Law Enforcement Program Manager.

The Kingman Region's watercraft responsibilities extend from Separation Rapid (where the Colorado River flows out of the Grand Canyon) to the Interstate 40 Bridge, approximately 215 miles downstream. During the watercraft season, this stretch of the Colorado River hosts approximately 1.3 million visitors each month.

Officer Baumgarten is recognized throughout Arizona and the western states as one of the top experts in watercraft law enforcement. He has established himself as one of the leading authorities in operating under the influence (OUI) enforcement practices and techniques, boat theft investigations and watercraft accident investigations. He is also the lead instructor in watercraft laws and patrol procedures at AGFD's nationally known Watercraft Enforcement and Tactics Survival School.

As such, he is frequently requested by other state and western boating law enforcement agencies to present watercraft law enforcement classes to their officers. Officer Baumgarten has taught watercraft theft enforcement for the Mohave County Community College and to the Arizona Department of Public Safety officers for Advance Officer training. He continues to serve as a Boating Under the Influence instructor for the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators and provided multiple classes in 2004 and 2005. As an instructor he has developed lesson plans and instructed classes for NASBLA and brought Arizona's innovative OUI special project "best practices" to other agencies.

Officer Baumgarten is a very effective and productive OUI officer. He has personally accounted for well over 100 OUI arrests in his career, and he has assisted fellow officers with hundreds more. He was involved in the first OUI checkpoint in Arizona in 1993. Since then he has participated in and/or supervised over 70 on-the-water sobriety checkpoints, more than any other Arizona watercraft officer.

These multi-agency cooperative efforts ultimately removed several hundred impaired boaters from Arizona waterways and resulted in thousands of watercraft citations. Last year alone, Officer Baumgarten supervised eight Colorado River OUI checkpoints that resulted in 1,185 watercraft contacts with 3,694 boaters, issuing 342 citations and 31 OUI arrests. Building upon these historical successes, Baumgarten planned an additional nine checkpoints for summer 2005.

Officer Baumgarten also helped develop a watercraft law enforcement-training program for federal officers at the FLETC academy in Glynco, Georgia. In addition, he provided instruction in OUI enforcement at the 2003 International Boating and Water Safety Summit in Las Vegas, Nevada, and gave a presentation at the Annual Alcohol Summit put on by the Governor's Office of Highway Safety in Arizona. His presentation was well received, and because of it Officer Baumgarten was given the opportunity to meet with the head of the Governor's Office of Highway Safety regarding issues of OUI enforcement throughout the state.

Officer Baumgarten is an accredited Class I Operator and Quality Assurance Specialist in all variations of the CMI 5000, 8000 and Intoximeter's RBT-IV. He maintains certification in horizontal gaze nystagmus and as an AZ POST General Instructor and has completed all three levels of Watercraft Accident Investigation. Officer Baumgarten is working diligently with NASBLA and the AGFD Law Enforcement Branch in an attempt to standardize and validate

the OUI Field Sobriety Tests, which will benefit officers both statewide and nationally.

In 2004, he worked in creating a new OUI officer worksheet that is being used by most agencies in Arizona that conduct watercraft enforcement activities. This will allow consistency among all agencies and provide the first step in gathering data to send to the Southern California Research Institute for the standardization and validation of the waterborne FST battery.

Throughout his career, Officer Baumgarten has been called upon to draft language for watercraft laws and rules. In 1997 he successfully coordinated with the Nevada Division of Wildlife and Bullhead City, AZ to establish a "No Wake Zone" in a problematic area of the Colorado River. This effort has reduced watercraft related accidents to almost zero in this area.

Officer Baumgarten received an Award of Merit from the National Water Safety Congress for "Recognition for Outstanding Efforts and Accomplishments in Prevention of Water-Related Accidents and Drowning within a Large Region" in 1997. Additionally, he was recognized by AZ Game Ranger, Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge #71 as the 2002 Outstanding Game & Fish Officer of the Year.

Officer Baumgarten always strives to assist the AGFD to build strong alliances with the public and fellow law enforcement agencies and to help the department reach its mission of ensuring safe watercraft recreation for the enjoyment, appreciation and use by present and future generations. Overall, he is an outstanding asset to watercraft law enforcement efforts not only in his state but across the nation. His tireless devotion of safe boating and detecting and removing the impaired boater has made Arizona's waterways a much safer place for all boaters, particularly those along the Colorado River.

# REGIONAL recipients



Watercraft Officer Specialist  
**Heather Abele**  
Department of Natural Resources  
**Ohio**

## Northern Region Recipient

Watercraft Officer Specialist Heather Abele has been with the Ohio Division of Watercraft since June 2000. Before that, she served as a volunteer for the agency and helped to promote boating education in central Ohio. For her extraordinary efforts to further promote safe boating and safe boating programs in Ohio, she received the 2004 Ohio Division of Watercraft Officer of the Year Award.

In 2004 Officer Abele spent more than 500 hours on the water patrolling in the south-central part of the state. She wrote 19 citations, conducted over 300 boat safety inspections, issued more than 350 warnings, made one operating under the influence arrest, investigated three boating accidents, assisted on 20 search and rescue missions, made over 2,700 boater contacts, assisted 91 boaters, and conducted nine livery inspections.

One particular event that Officer Abele was involved in explains why she was selected as the state's officer of the year. While responding to a fatal accident on Paint Creek, Officer Abele took control of the situation, directed other law enforcement officers to perform tasks, notified the department of the critical incident, dispatched an investigator, preserved evidence, completed field sobriety checks on four persons at the scene and dealt effectively and compassionately with grieving family and friends of the victim.

Officer Abele has been instrumental in increasing the number of boating safety classes taught in South Central Ohio over the past five years. She has developed and implemented an Ohio River Boating Course that has become extremely popular. In 2004, Officer Abele was involved in 40 education events and spent more than 240 hours teaching boat safety classes. She's been involved in numerous education events, including Earth Days in the state parks, Demo Days, Paddling Seminars, and the Bob Evans Farm Festival.

Officer Abele is usually the first person to arrive each day for work and normally the last to leave at the end of the day. She works out of a remote office and produces a phenomenal amount of work according to her supervisor. Her appearance and demeanor are always professional and she always takes a leadership role in her assignments. Officer Abele could be a poster child for positive attitude. Always with a smile on her face and a can-do attitude, she has a positive effect on whomever she meets.

Recently Officer Abele was selected to become a Field Training Officer (FTO) to assist in the training of new watercraft officers. This voluntary assignment further shows the motivation and desire of Officer Abele to help develop and mentor new officers.



Sergeant  
**Ben Sisk**  
Game & Fish Commission  
**Arkansas**

## Southern Region Recipient

Sgt. Sisk was first named Arkansas' boating officer of the year for his professionalism, dedication and commitment to boating law enforcement. From there, he competed against several officers from the Southern region to be named regional officer of the year.

"Sgt. Sisk takes pride in his job and works extremely hard. His accomplishments in boating law enforcement, boating safety education, theft and accident investigation are impressive, considering all his other responsibilities," commented Capt. Clyde Shepard in his nomination letter for Sgt. Sisk.

As a certified instructor, Sgt. Sisk stays busy with training, planning, supervising and conducting special operations in his post. He is a lead instructor in boating law, boating under the influence detection, marine theft investigation, marine accident investigation, and day/night defensive boat operations. In addition, Sgt. Sisk serves as a marine accident and theft investigator in his district. He possesses excellent investigative skills and is called upon regularly for his expertise.

One of Sisk's major accomplishments in 2004 was working with the National Crime Information Center, Arkansas Crime Information Center, National Insurance Crime Bureau and the U.S. Coast Guard to gather information to produce a marine theft report for Arkansas. This is the only report of its kind in the state that lists every stolen boat and motor in Arkansas. This report alerted numerous officers to the increasing problem of marine theft.

With a genuine interest and concern for the public, especially children, Sisk excels as a boating safety educator. He has educated many young boaters, making the waterways safer for everyone.

In 2004 he taught nine boating education classes in local junior high and high schools. The officer encourages students to study by offering a ride in his patrol boat to all students who exceed in the course test. Sisk has also conducted boating safety to local 4-H clubs and taught boating safety during hunter education classes.

# NORTHERN region



Conservation  
Enforcement Officer  
**Tate Begley**  
Department of  
Environmental Protection  
**Connecticut**

Conservation Enforcement Officer Tate Begley has worked for the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection since January 2000. He is assigned to the South Sector of the Western District with patrol towns that include Candlewood Lake (the state's largest lake at 5,430 acres), which borders five towns. In 2004 he put in 323 hours in boating enforcement, resulting in 29 incidents, 15 arrests and six written warnings.

On June 6, 2004, Conservation Enforcement Officer Begley was working the Candlewood Lake fireworks detail. At approximately 10:30 p.m., Officer Begley and other conservation enforcement officers that were working the detail responded to a report of a boating accident on the lake in the town of Brookfield. Upon arriving at the scene, Officer Begley found that a 20 ft. ski boat had collided with a 20 ft. pontoon boat, and the operator of the ski boat was attempting to leave the scene. It was also reported that the operator of the ski boat had assaulted the operator of the pontoon boat.

When Officer Begley stopped the operator of the ski boat, the operator attempted to assault him. While Officer Begley was taking the operator into custody, two of the operator's family members attempted to interfere with the arrest. Other officers had to restrain and arrest those individuals. The operator of the ski boat was initially charged with Breach of Peace, Interfering with an Officer, and Assault in the Third Degree. Officer Begley's investigation of the boating accident subsequently resulted in numerous boating charges being filed against the operator of the ski boat including Reckless Boating in the First Degree and Reckless Boating in the First Degree While Under the Influence.



AFC  
**Nicholas A. Couch**  
Department of Natural  
Resources and  
Environmental Control  
**Delaware**

As a fairly young officer with the Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife, AFC Nicholas Couch has excelled in all duties as a fish and wildlife officer. He volunteered to become a Small Boat Handling instructor, attended training in Glynco, Ga., and has provided training to his fellow officers.

During 2004, boating accidents increased dramatically in Sussex County, keeping AFC Couch busy. He responded to, investigated, reported and prosecuted more than any other officer statewide. He investigated 10 boating accidents. In addition, he made two Operating Under the Influence arrests, stopping potential accidents before they occurred.

Throughout the year, Couch maintained a higher-than-average caseload. He continually flexed his hours, benefiting the citizens of Delaware. Couch is always helpful to his fellow agents and consistently maintains a professional image and demeanor.



Conservation Officer  
**Ronald S. Miller**  
Department of Natural  
Resources  
**Indiana**

Ronald S. Miller is a well-rounded Indiana Conservation Officer who is dedicated to protecting the resources and the public he serves. In addition to being highly motivated and mature, he uses good judgment in his dealings with the public. He always presents a sharp, polished image, yet is quick to get in the dirt when the job calls for it.

Officer Miller began his service with the Law Enforcement Division in July 1985. Since that time, he has been assigned to Dubois County, a high-use area that includes the East Fork of the White River, Patoka River, Beaver Dam Lake and Patoka Reservoir. Officer Miller is often called upon to work special details on the Wabash River and Ohio River. He provides vigorous, professional boating law enforcement on these waters. His patrol activity includes recreational boaters, livery operations, wildlife law

enforcement, fishing enforcement, waterfowl enforcement, and special event patrols.

Consistently a high performer, Officer Miller has become a fixture in the Dubois County area and has the recognition and respect of the public with whom he works and lives. Miller's training is varied, indicating his strong interest in boating and boat safety.

Officer Miller is a firm believer that educating the youngsters is a vital part of safe boating – for they are the boaters of the future. He does not limit himself to formal presentations or programs, however, and he cultivates every opportunity to pass on the boating safety message to the public. Every year, Miller is involved with the Jasper F.O.P. Lodge Kid's Camp. There, he provides instruction on boater education, water safety and other related topics to children who would probably not get the message otherwise.

Fortunately, Miller was required to investigate only one boating accident during the year. He did so in his normal thorough and professional manner. He also issued 20 tickets and 52 warnings for boating-related violations during the past year.



Recreation Safety Officer  
**Marty Eby**  
Department of Natural  
Resources  
**Iowa**

Officer Marty Eby has been a Recreation Safety Officer with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) since 1989. He has always been heavily involved in boating activities, particularly since his territory includes the Lake Okoboji/Spirit Lake region of northwest Iowa. This area is an extremely popular destination that attracts a vast crowd of boaters and water-related activities.

While Officer Eby's work routinely includes many hours of boating patrols and law enforcement, he also works closely with the recruitment and training of boating safety instructors and provides large numbers of boating safety programs each year. Not only is Officer Eby one of the agency's advanced boat crash investigators but he also teaches boat crash investigation at the bureau academy.

On the morning of August 2, 2004, Officer Eby was called to the scene of a high-profile boating accident that was one of the worst in the department's history. Statistically, this crash should never have occurred. Ten people were injured and

a six-year-old girl was killed. The two families that were involved were highly respected and well-known throughout the state, making the crash a top story in the media for weeks.

Officer Eby took the lead in investigating the crash with assistance from other DNR officers. The investigation resulted in a report that filled a three-inch notebook, documenting each interview, every photograph and all leads that required follow-up. As a result, the case went before a grand jury for possible indictable charges.

With his commitment and thoroughness, Officer Eby has set the standard in Iowa for documentation of incidents such as this tragedy. He is highly respected by his peers and other agencies in his assigned area. Iowa's investigative process is better because of the dedication and passion Eby displays in his daily work ethic for keeping Iowa a safe place to boat and recreate.



Natural Resource Officer  
**Dennis Zehr**  
Wildlife and Parks  
Kansas

Natural Resource Officer Dennis Zehr is responsible for enforcing the state wildlife, fisheries and boating laws for Kansas Wildlife and Parks. Dedicated to boating safety, Officer Zehr has been extremely active in public safety programs throughout his district. He has developed and instructed boating and water safety courses in the metropolitan area for both adults and children, influencing well over 500,000 individuals.

Officer Zehr is the designated Boating Enforcement Officer for his region, which includes four major federal reservoirs, numerous state and community fishing lakes, and several miles of streams. In this position, Officer Zehr has developed and carried out enforcement efforts targeting several aspects of recreational boating safety, including targeting operators of vessels who are under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.

Passionate about removing impaired boaters from the water, Officer Zehr has been involved in the arrest of many impaired operators and has worked several BUI check-lanes. He also utilizes the media for relaying the safe boating message to the public.

One noteworthy incident involved the arrest of an adult male who registered at twice the legal intoxication level. This male operator had no life jackets on board. He had a five-year-old passenger with him, but the child's parents were unaware of the absence of the child. Officer Zehr intercepted

the boat and subsequently arrested the operator. This may have prevented a tragedy and may have saved the child's life.

Officer Zehr utilizes his energy and passion for boating enforcement in helping younger officers learn their role in boating enforcement. He is one of the few officers who can be found enforcing the state's boating laws during the nighttime hours and into the early mornings, checking vessels for their compliance of the boating safety equipment. Several of these nighttime adventures have netted arrest of individuals on boats for narcotics, underage drinking, boating under the influence, and negligent operation.

Officer Zehr's professionalism has positively affected many recreational water enthusiasts. His diligence and attention to public safety on the waters of the state and his educational efforts have no doubt saved the lives of many individuals utilizing the Kansas outdoors.



Game Warden  
**Brad Richard**  
Department of Inland  
Fisheries and Wildlife  
Maine

Game Warden Brad Richard patrols the Grand Lake Stream region, which has many large lakes, ponds and rivers within its boundaries. This is a very busy hub for outdoor recreation in downtown Maine.

Warden Richard spends many hours a week during the open water season patrolling the waterways in his district. He enforces fishing laws as well as boat safety and registration laws. He has been involved in several search and rescue operations when a boater has become lost or overdue.

In October 2003, two boys overturned a kayak in a storm on a large lake. Several wardens and civilians responded to the search, but Warden Richard and the searchers in his watercraft were the ones that found the boys washed up on an island in the middle of the night.

Working on his own, Warden Richard has gone the extra mile to spec out new equipment for the department. When looking for a motor for his patrol boat, he researched the Internet and other sources of information. He then helped the department follow through with the purchase of a new E-tech outboard for his boat. This 90-horsepower motor has proved to be lighter, quieter, cleaner and more fuel efficient than the one that had originally been scheduled for

purchase. He also worked with the equipment committee and did the research and testing for new personal flotation devices for the game wardens. The selected inflatables may save a game warden's life some day.

Because of boating concerns at the major boat launch site near the outlet of West Grand Lake, Warden Richard took the initiative and contacted the navigation aid division. He secured two headway speed buoys. These were placed in a location that alerted more boaters to the headway speed only zone. This effort resulted in a decrease in boating complaints on that part of the lake. It may also save lives some day.

Warden Richard routinely works with the Outdoor Partners Program to enhance boating safety in his area. Each year he operates a booth at the Grand Lake Stream Folk Art Festival to promote voluntary compliance and water safety.



Lieutenant  
**John Tulik**  
Environmental Police  
Massachusetts

Lt. John Tulik has been an exemplary public servant throughout his 24-year career as a marine officer with the Massachusetts Environmental Police (MEP). He is widely recognized as a true professional, dedicated to the agency's boating safety mission. As field supervisor of the MEP northern coastal region for the last 11 years, his strong leadership, diligence and collaborative skills have been hallmarks of his tenure.

In an extremely busy Atlantic Coast region Lt. Tulik oversees boating safety enforcement, as well as marine fisheries enforcement. Area waterways experience intense recreational boating activity during the season. The high level of commercial and recreational fishing pressure in the area also requires year-round monitoring. Displaying exceptional leadership, Lt. Tulik has effectively accomplished these missions, despite personnel shortages in recent years.

Lt. Tulik is involved in coordinating numerous boating safety patrols each year, some routine and others for major marine events. In 2004, Lt. Tulik logged over half the region's patrol hours to maintain the MEP's on-water presence. Regardless of the nature of the patrol, Lt. Tulik's proactive approach focuses on accident prevention through fair and uniform law enforcement.

Boating safety education is also a high priority for Lt. Tulik, as his officers log more

hours conducting public boating classes than any other region in the state. In the last five years, they have graduated over 800 people from the state boating courses. Additionally, they have conducted boating law presentations to hundreds more at United States Power Squadron and U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary courses.

Lt. Tulik was also very active in responding to boating accidents in 2004. He investigated a fatal sailboat capsizing in June, which claimed the life of a teenager in Salem Sound. In May, he raced to the scene of another mishap off Salem Sound and rescued a lobsterman who had gone overboard. In September while underway on a 25-foot patrol boat in dangerous 7-foot seas, he responded rapidly to two separate distress calls to assist the Coast Guard with rescue efforts. Officials from the U.S. Coast Guard and local marine authorities praise Lt. Tulik for his willingness to collaborate with them and his dedication to duty.



Conservation Officer  
**Greg Patten**  
Department of  
Natural Resources  
**Michigan**

Conservation Officer Greg Patten's diverse skills have allowed him to master what is required of a boating law enforcement officer: education, boating under the influence enforcement, search and rescue, public relations, accident investigation, community service and law enforcement. Whatever the need, Officer Patten completes the task – many times in innovative ways – while working toward safer boating for everyone.

Officer Patten has been an officer for 19 years. His work area borders Lake Michigan and includes numerous inland lakes, three large drowned river mouth lakes, and two large river systems. This area has a large population base with a hefty seasonal influx of anglers and recreational boaters.

The most important quality Officer Patten brings to the job is his diversity of skills relating to boating safety. Whether he's inspecting charter boats, providing safety education to the public, or assisting in the training of other law enforcement agencies, Officer Patten has assumed responsibility of being involved in all marine events in two of the busiest counties on the Lake Michigan shoreline. In addition, his geographical knowledge of the area heightens his awareness of locations that require caution and those that need specific craft for access.

Officer Patten maintains excellent public relations in all aspects of boating law enforcement. In addition to instructing marine safety classes to several groups, he is a resource for local agencies on state boating laws. He also helps with various outreach efforts, including safety demonstrations, boating outings, safety days and media interviews.

On July 24, 2004, Officer Patten and Sgt. Dave Shaw were patrolling Muskegon Lake when they received a mayday call of a sinking fishing boat several miles offshore in Lake Michigan. The officers immediately responded and were the first patrol boat on the scene after several miles of rough water conditions. Patten used sonar equipment to locate the boat in distress and effectively coordinated responding agencies by radio. After arriving on the scene, he helped pull three fishermen from a small fishing boat and transferred them to his patrol boat. Officer Patten's experience, operational skills and multi-agency relationships worked together to help prevent the loss of life.



Conservation Officer  
**Karl Hadrits**  
Department of  
Natural Resources  
**Minnesota**

Conservation Officer Karl Hadrits has focused on boating safety education and enforcement throughout his 15-year career. Officer Hadrits began his career working the very busy, 288,000-acre Red Lake in northwest Minnesota. Later Officer Hadrits was transferred to the Garrison station in the central part of the state, where he spent numerous hours patrolling the 132,000-acre Mille Lacs Lake and surrounding lakes. While working the Garrison station, Officer Hadrits was involved in numerous search and rescue incidents. For more than eight years, Officer Hadrits has been assigned to the Crosby station (also in north central Minnesota) and has spent numerous hours working on boating safety and enforcement on the dozens of lakes within the station as well as assisting other officers throughout the district.

Not only has Officer Hadrits had a consistent presence on the water, but he has worked hard at educating the public on various aspects of boat and water safety. Officer Hadrits worked for many years with area lakeshore associations to provide a boating safety course for local youth. In

addition, Officer Hadrits organizes area conservation officers to provide a behind-the-wheel component for students to familiarize them with the actual operation on both traditional boats and personal watercraft.

His participation in and organization of annual safety presentations throughout his station exemplifies Officer Hadrits' dedication to the boating safety mission. He has developed a presentation directed toward young kids and their parents, focusing on the need to ensure that personal flotation devices are used in water-related activities. He has also been a boating safety enforcement instructor for conservation officer academies and has sought out opportunities to further his training by attending law enforcement courses.

Officer Hadrits is very confident and proficient in the detection and successful prosecution of boating violations. During his career he has arrested almost 30 individuals for boating while intoxicated.



Boating Safety Officer  
**Scott Eveland**  
Game and Parks  
Commission  
**Nebraska**

Officer Scott Eveland has an outstanding work ethic regarding boating safety education and boating law enforcement. He maintains an exceptionally professional and courteous demeanor in his contacts with the public. He consistently exceeds all the facets and requirements for his duty assignment.

As a certified boating safety instructor, Officer Eveland has certified more than 740 students in the past five years. He has also certified over 60 boating safety instructors for teaching the Nebraska boating safety courses. Officer Eveland further promotes boating safety through public service announcements in the local media, newspaper, radio and television.

Officer Eveland's area of responsibility includes Lake McConaughy, the largest lake in Nebraska. He communicates with the boating law administrator, local residential lake officials and conservation officers for input, interpretation and discussion about boating laws and regulations. Officer Eveland's law enforcement contacts are above average, and he seldom spends time in court, indicating the quality of his law enforcement contacts through citations and arrests. He has completed the comprehensive and advanced levels of NASBLA boat accident

investigation course. He has used these skills to investigate five reportable boating accidents in 2004 alone at Lake McConaughy. He participates in countless search and rescue operations with local fire and rescue representatives each year. He has also written a successful grant request to the Nebraska Office of Highway Safety for preliminary breath testing units for the boating officers and was able to secure the devices at no cost to the agency.

Dedicated to community involvement, Officer Eveland is a founding member of Safe Kids of the Sandhills, which is affiliated with the National Safe Kids Foundation. He wrote a successful grant to BoatU.S. to fund several hundred kids' T-shirts printed with a logo and the words "I got caught wearing my life jacket at Lake McConaughy." Officer Eveland has served as a guest instructor at the Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center, where he has expanded other law enforcement officers' knowledge of boating safety. He provides numerous boating safety programs to local civic groups and all ages of schoolchildren. He has developed websites for various organizations, as well as a personal home page.



Deputy  
**Charlie Slack**  
Niagara County  
Sheriff's Department  
**New York**

For nearly two decades, Deputy Charlie Slack, with the Niagara County Sheriff's Department, has been committed to keeping the waterways in his district safe.

Most of Deputy Slack's patrol assignments have been in the Upper Niagara River. Like a seasoned foot patrol officer in a big city, Deputy Slack has become very familiar with his patrol area and the people in it. Because of the great rapport Deputy Slack has with the boaters and homeowners along the Upper Niagara River, he is able to keep any type of illegal activity in check. And when some type of crime does occur in his area, he pursues the offenders with great tenacity.

During Deputy Slack's career, he has been involved in many situations that test the mettle of an individual. Whether it involved pursuing a disabled vessel as it drifted toward the brink of Niagara Falls, rescuing a fellow officer who was wrestling with an irate boater, or getting underway in eight-foot seas for a search and rescue mission, Deputy Slack remains dedicated and reliable.

In his avid pursuit of keeping the waterways safe, Deputy Slack is a firm believer that boater education is the key. He is one of the more enthusiastic boating safety instructors, having taught more than 500 people in the past five years alone. He is the lead instructor in the boater safety courses offered by the sheriff's department. He began by teaching 10- to 18-year-olds in the "Make Sure, Make Shore" program about 15 years ago. Since that time he has instructed more than 2,000 people of all ages on boater safety.



Game Warden  
**James Myhre**  
Game & Fish  
Department  
**North Dakota**

Although just completing his second year of full time employment, Game Warden James Myhre has already made an impact on the boating public in his patrol area. Warden Myhre attended the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators' specialized BUI detection training in Oregon prior to the last boating season and was quick to put these skills to use. Warden Myhre was involved in several BUI and drug possession arrests, either working with a partner or patrolling by himself.

Warden Myhre works on some of the most congested waters of the state, and his presence has done much to create a safer environment for the boating public. Officer Myhre has worked with other law enforcement agencies to encourage their officers to become more involved with boating enforcement.

Warden Myhre is active in boat safety education in his community and has been instrumental in forming a local sportsmen's organization, serving as its treasurer. Warden Myhre is an excellent officer who serves the department and the people of North Dakota in an outstanding manner.

**PHOTO  
UNAVAILABLE**

Environmental  
Police Officer  
**Peter Wood**  
Department of  
Environmental  
Management  
**Rhode Island**

For the second time in his career, Environmental Police Officer Peter Wood has been selected as the Boating Officer of the Year for Rhode Island. Nominations for this distinction are based on the opinions of an officer's peers. Officer Wood's colleagues nominated him for his work as a boating officer overall, but with specific attention given to his abilities as a trainer, training new officers in boat handling, navigation and marine patrol disciplines in general.

Officer Wood has maintained his professionalism and dedication throughout his years of service and is a credit to the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management's Division of Law Enforcement.



Wildlife Conservation  
Officer  
**Aaron Kahre**  
Department of Game,  
Fish & Parks  
**South Dakota**

Wildlife Conservation Officer Aaron Kahre has done a very good job with boating enforcement in his assigned district, which has very heavy fishing and boating pressure in the summertime. Officer Kahre also does a great job checking boaters for safety equipment. In 2004 he performed 328 boat inspections.

Officer Kahre has developed a good working relationship with the sheriff's department and with the resorts on the area lakes. He can be counted on to help other officers on their lakes in surrounding counties. He has cultivated a reputation of being very strict when it comes to boating safety. He was tough on boating safety violators when he first came to Marshall County. This has paid off as people are better about making sure they have all of their safety equipment on board.

Officer Kahre serves as one of the defensive tactics instructors for the department. He conducted a training session for his fellow officers on how to handle non-compliant boaters and BUI suspects. This was the first time the department conducted on the water defensive tactics, and it helped the officers become more confident in their water patrols.



Auxiliary Trooper  
**William D. Bullock**  
State Police  
Vermont

William D. Bullock joined the Vermont State Police Auxiliary Division in 1979. During his career, Auxiliary Trooper Bullock has spent countless hours enforcing boating laws and educating the boating public in Vermont. After 29 years of service, Auxiliary Trooper Bullock retired from the United States Air Guard - Security Forces in Burlington, Vt. He was responsible for providing law enforcement services to a base of over 1,200 members. He was also responsible for providing security and protection for an air wing of F-16 fighter aircraft. Upon retirement from the military Auxiliary Trooper Bullock joined the Marine Division full-time during the summer months.

During the first week of May 2004 State Police Marine Division personnel were tasked with the responsibility of locating and recovering the body of a young canoeist who fell overboard at night without a life jacket on Lake Champlain. Auxiliary Trooper Bullock was assigned to assist with logistics once State Police Mobile Command was activated. Auxiliary Trooper Bullock had many responsibilities at the recovery scene, while dealing with a multi-agency recovery effort on an international waterway. Auxiliary Trooper Bullock conducted himself in a professional manner and was an asset during the recovery phase.

As a member of the State Police vessel inspection team, Auxiliary Trooper Bullock conducted over 1,000 written vessel inspections while working on Lake Champlain during the 2004 boating season. This figure equates to half of the total number of inspections conducted during that season. Auxiliary Trooper Bullock worked various patrols, interacting with all types of recreational vessel users.

Auxiliary Trooper William Bullock became the head firearms instructor for the State Police Marine Division. He was instrumental in transitioning each Marine Trooper from the 9mm pistol to the more powerful 40 caliber Sig Sauer pistol. Troopers conducting Homeland Security patrols on international waterways are better equipped and much more knowledgeable because of his efforts.

Auxiliary Trooper Bullock has taken a leadership role in the Vermont State Police Auxiliary program. His work ethic and overall performance is an example for others to follow.



Conservation Warden  
**Patrick M. Neal**  
Department of Natural  
Resources  
Wisconsin

Conservation Warden Patrick (Mike) Neal is a member of the Northeast Region's Regional Operations Team, assigned to the Sister Bay Station located in northern Door County. As a popular vacation destination, Door County attracts sport fishers and boating enthusiasts. Warden Neal has a well-rounded boating enforcement program, which includes components of enforcement, public relations and education.

Warden Neal has developed a very active boating enforcement program with routine patrol on the waters of Green Bay and Lake Michigan. He met all his FY 04 boating enforcement objectives. Despite the extensive acreage of water to be covered, Warden Neal ensures there is a periodic enforcement presence throughout his assigned administrative area.

Two years ago, Warden Neal initiated a program of contacting lakeshore owners in the Ephraim/Sister Bay area to educate them on the rules with mooring buoys and lighting of anchored boats. This effort resulted in a high level of voluntary compliance which enhanced the safety of boaters on the adjoining waters of Green Bay.

Warden Neal also ensured that boat safety education classes were offered in northern Door County. He made a point of speaking to the students attending each of the courses on boating safety, laws and their responsibilities as boat operators.

During the past two years, Warden Neal has investigated 25 boating incidents involving injuries, death and property damage. He does an excellent job investigating boat incidents per the department guidelines. He always does a complete investigation with gathering of evidence, statements, measurements, etc. necessary to make a determination of cause and responsibility.

Warden Neal works closely with the Door County Sheriff Department and U.S. Coast Guard stations at Sturgeon Bay and on Washington Island to ensure the best possible service to the boaters of the area. He routinely provides assistance to these primary agencies with search and rescue incidents and body recovery. To improve coordination between agencies, he is putting together a joint training exercise with the Door County Sheriff Department, U.S. Coast Guard and municipal public safety agencies for response to boating crash incidents on the Bay of Green Bay.

## How to Nominate a Boating Officer

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

To be considered for this recognition, a nominee must be a commissioned, certified or sworn peace officer authorized by his/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 Marvin "Butch" Potts Memorial Award.

Nomination forms will be sent electronically to each state boating law administrator in January of each year. Additional information on the program will also be posted online at [www.nasbla.org](http://www.nasbla.org).

# SOUTHERN region



Officer  
**Randall Keeton**  
Marine Police Division  
**Alabama**

Officer Randall Keeton has always been a proficient, steady officer, willing to volunteer for any special detail, from educational programs to assisting in a disaster, such as a hurricane, flood or tornado. He has distinguished himself through his daily interactions with the boaters in his area, never receiving a complaint. On February 9, Officer Keeton distinguished himself even further.

Officer Keeton's post, in North Alabama, had been inundated with rain for several days, and on February 9, the area began to flood as the creeks and rivers overflowed their banks. Officer Keeton launched his patrol boat to assist in evacuating people from their homes. After a number of residents were evacuated, Officer Keeton returned to the area to check on the residents that had opted to stay. Working his way downstream toward a marina, he observed a large number of trees and other debris piling up against a break wall at the marina. With the substantial amount of debris and the force of the floodwater pushing against it, the break wall moved up against the main dock structure, putting all of the marina docks and boats in jeopardy. Thinking quickly, Officer Keeton contacted the Tennessee Valley Authority and requested the use of their trash boat, which is used to move debris from the dam to the trash gate. With his request approved, Officer Keeton and three other operators spent the next three hours moving debris from the break wall and docks. Through his quick thinking and brave efforts, Officer Keeton averted further flood damage and saved hundreds of thousands of dollars in damage to the marina, the boats docked at the marina, and the surrounding area and homes.

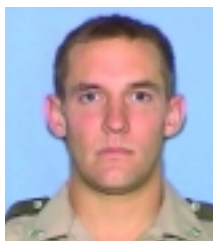


Officer  
**David Nutter**  
Metropolitan Police  
Department  
**District of Columbia**

Officer David Nutter has been a police officer with the Metropolitan Police Department, District of Columbia since 1990. He has been assigned to the Harbor Patrol Unit for four years.

Since his assignment to the Harbor Unit, Officer Nutter has received extensive marine law enforcement/rescue certifications such as Public Safety Underwater Search and Recovery Diver; BUI Enforcement Technician; Tactical Boarding Training; Non-powered Vessel Safety Instructor; Haz-Mat Technician; and Fish and Game Enforcement Agent.

Officer Nutter is currently the only Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Officer for the District of Columbia. He leads the Harbor Patrol Unit year after year in a full range of enforcement activities, to include boating safety inspections and criminal citations for boating safety violations and Fish and Wildlife violations.



Officer  
**Grant Burton**  
Fish & Wildlife  
Conservation  
Commission  
**Florida**

A native Floridian, Officer Grant Burton began his career as a fish and wildlife officer when he was selected to attend the first academy class after the merger that created the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission. He graduated from the academy in July 2001 and was assigned to patrol in the Sarasota/Manatee County area, where he continues to work today.

During the past year, Officer Burton has demonstrated his commitment to protecting Florida's resources and people through action. He has organized many special details targeting intentional large-scale violators.

In 2004, he documented more than 350 fish and wildlife violations, with citations and warnings. These violations included cases such as illegal netting, hunting at night, boating violations, taking fish and wildlife out of season, size and bag limit violations, and breaking laws that protect people and property. In addition, Officer Burton led his patrol area in arrests for boating under the influence during the past year.

He considers education to be a large part of the job and practices the state's community-oriented policing philosophy by helping constituents comply with the laws before they unintentionally violate them.

Officer Burton has shown commitment by taking on additional duties above his required responsibilities by helping train new academy graduates as a Field Training Officer and becoming a member of his region's Special Operations Group (SOG). He was part of the agency's response to the four hurricanes that ravaged the state in 2004. And as an SOG team

member, he provided waterborne security at the Super Bowl held in Jacksonville.

Officer Burton's determination to see the job through resulted in the rescue of three persons after their boat capsized in Sarasota Bay. All three were clinging to a navigational buoy and near-death from hypothermia. Burton's knowledge of the local waters and assessment of the situation brought about the successful rescue of all three.

This officer's ethical approach to his duties, unbiased and compassionate application of law enforcement, and commitment to his community all combine to make him an admirable officer.



Corporal  
**Ryan Swain**  
Department of Natural  
Resources  
**Georgia**

Assigned to Lincoln County, Corporal Ryan Swain led his region in boating educational programs, total number of hours spent on boating safety and total number of boating contacts in 2004. He documented 503 vessels inspected, spent 852 hours on boating safety, led 25 boating-related programs and assisted with five other programs. These programs served approximately 1041 people in the Augusta area.

Corporal Swain responded to 32 stranded boaters after normal patrol hours. These after-hours responses included nighttime rescues in adverse weather conditions.

In December 2004 Corporal Swain performed a daring nighttime rescue, along with other members from his work section, on an island in the open waters of Clarks Hill Lake. The weather conditions that night were 17 degrees with wind gusts of 20-30 mph causing three- to four-foot swells.

In the first rescue attempt, while navigating the treacherous open waters, the swells were breaking over the bow of Corporal Swain's patrol vessel. As a result, the bilge pump was unable to keep up with the copious amounts of water coming into the vessel. Corporal Swain's vessel and clothing were completely covered in ice at this point. The officer turned back and secured a larger offshore vessel from a local rescue-dive team member.

Corporal Swain, along with RFC Brian Adams, was able to reach the stranded boater on this second attempt with the larger vessel. With complete disregard for his own well-being, Corporal Swain gave the rescued individual his coat, gloves and rain pants. Corporal Swain and crew then successfully executed the dangerous

return back to the safety of the marina where EMS was ready to treat the individual for exposure and transport to the local hospital. Corporal Swain, along with his work unit's willingness to risk their own lives, ensured that this incident was a successful search and rescue mission and not a recovery.



Wildlife & Boating Officer  
**Chad Parker**  
Department of Fish and  
Wildlife Resources  
**Kentucky**

After graduating with a bachelor's degree in criminal science and receiving his law enforcement certification from Kentucky's Department of Criminal Justice in 1996, Chad Parker served as a patrol officer for four years with two police departments. He then joined Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Resources as a wildlife and boating officer.

Assigned to Fulton County, which borders Tennessee and Missouri, Officer Parker is responsible for patrolling the Mississippi River, Kentucky Lake and Barkley Lake, issuing citations or arresting those who are in violation of state boating laws. Parker also investigates and records data that aids him in identifying illegal activity and prosecuting the offenders.

In 2004 he spent 350 hours on the water. He cited 76 boating violations, worked on 14 drug cases and assisted with 80 other cases, conducted 278 boat inspections, and made two arrests for boating under the influence. His sound judgment and solid enforcement play a pivotal role in the convictions he's made. Parker also worked four accidents and three drownings during the year.

Officer Parker is keenly aware of the importance of boating safety. He has made it one of his priorities to inform and teach the youth about all aspects of boating, spending many hours talking to youth about their role as responsible boaters. Parker was certified as a boating safety instructor in 2000. He presents boating safety programs to schools, camps, hunters and boating and sporting clubs.

In addition he spends time as a conservation education teacher in an annual weeklong youth conservation camp, where he teaches boating safety. In 2004 he spent over 60 hours in classroom preparation and certified 123 children at the camp.



Sergeant  
**Chuck Strain**  
Department of Wildlife  
and Fisheries  
**Louisiana**

Sgt. Chuck Strain stands out among his peers as an example of what is admired and respected in marine officers. He is always considerate, helpful and ready to lend a hand or rope to boaters in need.

His knowledge and skill in operating boats in extreme conditions is unmatched. In addition, he is viewed as the "go-to" officer in search and rescue operations.

A 17-year veteran of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Sgt. Strain has worked in one of the most heavily utilized recreational boating areas for his entire career. He holds a U.S. Coast Guard Ocean Operator's license for oceangoing 100-ton vessels and is often called upon by other law enforcement agencies to take the helm of large boats during arrests and seizures in drug cases.

He is an expert in accident investigation and reconstruction. Using his experience and training, he has established cause (and subsequently brought charges) in many accidents where fault was difficult or unable to be ascertained.

Strain usually leads his district in boating under the influence arrests and boating safety contacts. He is a constant presence on the waters in and adjacent to Lake Pontchartrain and has rescued untold numbers of boaters in peril during bad weather or other unsafe conditions.

Additionally, Sgt. Strain coordinates his district's boat inspection program. He is responsible for stamping homemade boats and for handling registration problems for area citizens.



Corporal  
**Walter K. May**  
Department of Natural  
Resources  
**Maryland**

Personable and professional in his demeanor, Corporal Walter K. May is consistently one of the most productive officers in his region.

As an officer with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, he addressed 847 violations in 2004, 236 of which were boating-related. He made 17 arrests for negligent operation and four arrests for operating while intoxicated. In addition, Cpl. May investigated 10 serious

boating accidents, resulting in seven charges.

Cpl. May is an extremely self-reliant and capable officer. Highly motivated and dependable, he is a self-starter whom preplans patrols and ensures preparedness in the performance of daily activities. He stays abreast of trends in enforcement and seeks to enhance the capabilities of the agency. Cpl. May has endeavored to cultivate professional and personal contact within the community and is personable and professional in his demeanor.

He is well-versed in conservation law and enforcement techniques. Cpl. May exercises excellent judgment in his dealings with the public, presenting a model of all that a Natural Resources Police officer should represent. He can be relied upon to perform his duties in a professional and competent manner, even under the most stressful conditions.



Master Sergeant  
**Bobby Wilder**  
Department of Wildlife,  
Fisheries and Parks  
**Mississippi**

Master Sergeant Bobby Wilder puts everything he has into the job he does. He goes over and beyond the call of duty for any project in which he is involved, making it obvious that he takes great pride in his work. He has shown enthusiasm and dedication to become a leader in boating enforcement.

Mst. Sgt. is a devoted officer who's always willing to provide assistance to other law enforcement agencies. As a senior officer, he is willing and eager to have younger officers accompany him on the job. He has an excellent working relationship with the officers in his district as well as across the state.

Mst. Sgt. Wilder works a district that is one of the most popular areas in the state for outdoor recreation. It includes three large waterways. In 2004 he made 36 boating cases, including reckless operation, water-skiing regulations, age restrictions, BUI, PFD requirements, and running lights.

Helping to educate the state's boaters, Mst. Sgt. Wilder taught three boating safety classes. He also assisted with other groups, providing them with boating brochures and other educational material concerning boating education. He also visited various organizations and schools, speaking to them about the importance of water safety and operator awareness. And he worked several boating shows distributing educational materials to the public.



Patrol Officer  
**Kim Davis**  
State Water Patrol  
**Missouri**

Patrol Officer Kim Davis is a well-rounded, self-motivated officer who takes the initiative. She interned as a temporary Marine Safety Specialist at Lake of the Ozarks during the summer of 1998. She became a full-time officer with the Missouri State Water Patrol in January 1999.

Officer Davis serves as the District 6 Public Information Officer and has established very good working relationships with the local media. These relationships are crucial for increasing the public's knowledge of boating safety. Officer Davis is proactive and routinely writes PSAs to correspond with the upcoming boating season or holidays. In addition to Missouri residents, public service announcements (PSAs) promote the boating safety message to boaters in Kansas, Nebraska and Iowa.

In 2003, Officer Davis worked with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in drafting news media releases about a campaign that rewarded children who were wearing their life jackets. She also coordinated this campaign between the Corps and the Water Patrol in her area. This campaign resulted in Water Patrol Officers distributing over 300 T-shirts to children.

During the summer of 2004, Officer Davis implemented her own program to continue encouraging children to wear life jackets while boating. She contacted local fast food restaurants and engaged the businesses to donate coupons for free ice cream cones and drinks. The campaign was highly successful, with Water Patrol Officers handing out over 250 coupons in one month.

In another area concerning public safety, Officer Davis pursued an offer from the Spellman Foundation and St. Luke's Health System in Smithville, Mo., concerning Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs). As a result, the Water Patrol at Smithville Lake received two free AEDs and related training. These devices were put into service at Smithville Lake in 2003.

Officer Davis is a highly motivated patrol officer who is very successful in patrolling her assigned area at Smithville Lake. This waterway is a 7800-acre lake just north of Kansas City. In the past three years, she has inspected over 900 boats, written over 1300 warnings, and issued over 225 citations, made 20 boating while intoxicated arrests and taught 44 boating safety courses to 2,300 students.



Master Officer  
**William Allen Carlisle**  
Wildlife Resources  
Commission  
**North Carolina**

Master Officer Allen Carlisle has been with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission for nine years. He is primarily assigned to patrol Lake Norman, the largest manmade lake in the state. Due to the high number of boating accidents on Lake Norman, Officer Carlisle voluntarily attended NASBLA's Boat Accident Investigation seminar, making him one of the lead officers on boating accidents.

Officer Carlisle had an outstanding year in 2004 in the area of boating enforcement and education. He conducted two boating safety courses at Sherrills Ford Rescue Squad near the lake. He also conducted a boating program in Conover during the National Kids Nite Out event. In addition, he assisted in a training program for counselors at Camp Dogwood, a summer recreational camp for the blind.

Extremely dedicated to his job, Officer Carlisle is very serious in his efforts with boating safety and enforcement. He performs hundreds of boating safety inspections each summer. During the summer of 2004, he led all officers in his patrol area in the number of boat inspections, BWI arrests, citations issued and night hours worked.

One of the most aggressive BWI officers in the patrol area, Officer Carlisle finished the 2004 boating season with a total of 20 BWI cases. This is an especially impressive number since he had taken off the entire month of August for family leave. Several of these arrests came during the week, late in the day. During one large detail consisting of numerous officers working with the BAT mobile – the portable breath alcohol testing bus – Officer Carlisle made five of his 20 BWI arrests in one night.



Sergeant  
**Robin Camlin**  
Department of Natural  
Resources  
**South Carolina**

During her service with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, Sgt. Robin Camlin has earned the respect and support of her fellow officers and supervisors as well as other law enforcement agencies with her performance in boating law enforcement and saltwater enforcement. She has an almost contagious "never quit" attitude with any task placed upon her.

Sgt. Camlin has taken the lead role in several boating safety campaigns. She is very resourceful in making presentations and teaching classes in her area. She has developed PowerPoint presentations for boating safety classes as well as for other law enforcement education campaigns. Sgt. Camlin also conducts numerous safety and ethics presentations for the public in her assigned area. Last year she made 13 Hunter Education and 13 Boating Safety presentations that reached over 4,000 people.

A strong team player, Sgt. Camlin is always ready to assist local DNR officers in her county as well as DNR officers statewide. Her expertise in boating and fishing laws make her a tremendous asset to officers in the state. Sgt. Camlin is a member of SCDNR's B-SAF team (Boating Safety Action Force). As a B-SAF team member, Sgt. Camlin has tirelessly patrolled some of South Carolina's high-traffic waters where she excels in BUI and negligent operation enforcement. Sgt. Camlin displays a great team attitude and is always willing to go beyond any task on her B-SAF patrols.

During this past year one of Sgt. Camlin's many tasks was to lead a group of officers in creating a new boating safety campaign for the department. Her leadership along with input from her team has given SCDNR its Boating Safety mascot, Zippit. This mascot has already been introduced to thousands of people throughout South Carolina as well as other states. Because of Sgt. Camlin's leadership and innovation, the department's new boating safety mascot has promoted boating safety and personal flotation device awareness to many South Carolina sportsmen. Zippit now graces t-shirts, key floats, pencils, billboards, magnets, tape measurers and decals thanks to Sgt. Camlin's design and innovative ideas.



Officer  
**Ed Gover**  
Wildlife Resources  
Agency  
Tennessee

Davidson County Boating Officer Ed Gover's work ethic is unsurpassed, and he serves as a fine example for other officers to follow. Responsible for boating enforcement throughout Area 21, he works well with other officers, agencies and the public to improve boating safety in his area.

In 2004, Officer Gover conducted 1,374 boating safety inspections, resulting in 97 boating-related court citations or physical arrests, including 11 BUI arrests or assists, and numerous warning citations. He was also involved in 166 other citations issued during the course of his duties. Officer Gover worked with Scat Trac officials and Corps of Engineers personnel to plan a major three-day personal watercraft event at Percy Priest Reservoir. He also worked with Metro Parks, Metro Police Department and Nashville Fire Department to plan the security detail for one of the nation's largest Independence Day celebrations. He worked security before and after all of the Tennessee Titans home games and at the National Wild Turkey Federation's national convention at the Opryland Convention Center.

Officer Gover excels in the area of boating safety and education. In 2004 he helped the Boating Division make a safe boating video to be distributed to boaters statewide. He takes each opportunity to teach area youth about safe boating. He, along with other Area officers, spoke to students, county fair patrons, Boy Scout troops, and a 4-H group.

As an experienced enforcement officer, Gover helps train newly hired officers. He also maintains a close relationship with the local media outlets to promote TWRA programs. In 2004 he worked three fatal boating accidents and assisted in the investigations of ten other non-fatal accidents in Area 21. He also assisted local emergency management personnel in the recovery of drowning victims. Officer Gover coordinated the testing for the new mandatory boater education implemented last year. He has worked with other Area 21 officers to ensure that each county has a testing site available at least once a month. Gover also taught boating safety at three local hunter education classes.



Game Warden  
**Anthony Norton**  
Parks and Wildlife  
Department  
Texas

Through 18 years of education, training and work experience, Game Warden Anthony Norton has developed a keen knowledge of the Texas Penal code, Code of Criminal Procedure, Texas water Safety Act and other state and federal statutes. He uses his knowledge and experience to research, learn, interpret and make sound judgments.

According to his supervisor, Warden Norton always has new and innovative ideas. One idea in particular involved increasing BWI detection on a lake in his assigned area. In 2004, Warden Norton developed a two-part plan to target specific problem areas around Lake Cedar Creek, which is one of the most dangerous lakes in the region. Norton's plan included the lake as well as the land surrounding it. The first objective was to prepare and administer a BWI awareness class for the local law enforcement and district game wardens. The second objective was to focus law enforcement patrol on certain problem areas. Warden Norton coordinated this effort through his supervisor, the local sheriff's department, the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission and the Department of Public Safety. The result was 14 BWI arrests (an increase of 11 from the previous year), eight DWI arrests, and 25 arrests for other alcohol- and drug-related offenses.

Warden Norton has made tremendous contributions toward educating the public and furthering the department's boating safety program, Operation Outdoors, and other initiatives. The officer is deeply involved in his community. He has attained an excellent reputation among his fellow officers, landowners and sportsmen.

In the summer of 1999, Warden Norton helped save the life of a swimmer. Over Memorial Day weekend that year, Norton was working water safety patrol with another warden on Lake Palestine. While loading their boat at a boat ramp, they heard cries for help. They observed an individual having difficulty staying above water. Warden Norton threw a Type IV device to the swimmer, but swimmer could not get to it, so Norton and the other warden jumped into the water and rescued the tired swimmer.



Sergeant  
**Henry W. Garner**  
Department of Game &  
Inland Fisheries  
Virginia

An 18-year veteran of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Sergeant Henry Garner is a leader and mentor for the officers in his region. His advice and counsel are sought by new and seasoned officers alike. His evaluations have been consistently high and are often "exceptional" or "extraordinary contributor." He constantly strives to better himself through education and training, and he takes all facets of his work seriously. His work ethic has remained high throughout his career.

The thing that sets Sgt. Garner apart is his attitude. He fully supports the agency mission in all regards and easily adapts to change. He presents a positive, professional image and has the admiration and respect of his fellow officers, his supervisors, other agencies and the community.

Sgt. Garner has an extensive record of outreach that touches all phases of his job. For example, he combined the American Red Cross "Whale Tales" water safety curriculum with a program he developed to create a program suitable for small kids. This program was taught to 27 kids through the local parks and recreation department. Garner also taught a combination boat safety/water safety class to 14 home-schooled children in 2004.

Garner's leadership qualities are evident in the many roles he plays as instructor for others and the respect he has earned from his peers and supervisors. He serves as a role model both within the department and in the community.

# WESTERN region



Trooper  
**Shaun Kuzakin**  
Bureau of Wildlife  
Enforcement  
**Alaska**

For the second year in a row, Trooper Shaun Kuzakin has been named Alaska's boating officer of the year. Trooper Kuzakin is a member of the Alaska Bureau of Wildlife Enforcement, stationed at Sitka, Alaska. He is responsible for the enforcement of all state statutes and regulations in his region.

His primary patrol and investigative focus is the protection of fish and game resources. This includes but is not limited to all fishing, hunting and trapping laws for commercial, sport, personal use, and subsistence users. Other duties include making public presentations, providing information to the public, and supervising and participating in search and rescue operations. He works with and provides support to other state, federal and local agencies as needed. He operates and maintains several patrol vessels.

Trooper Kuzakin and one other trooper in Sitka are assigned 5,300 square miles of patrol area, approximately half of which is marine environment. There are several rural communities in his patrol area, and Trooper Kuzakin uses various patrol vessels to reach these outlying communities.

Trooper Kuzakin has attended the Alaska Marine Safety Education Course, Alaska Waterwise Safety Program, Marine Safety Instructor Course, Marine Law Enforcement training at the Federal Law Enforcement Center in Glynnco, Georgia, and the NASBLA Boating Under the Influence Detection and Enforcement training.

Well-liked by the citizens in his patrol area, Trooper Kuzakin always takes time to ensure the public is informed about boating safety regulations and general boating safety practices. While actively enforcing boating safety laws and regulations, he makes great efforts to contact boaters and conduct compliance checks. He sets a good example by personally exceeding regulation requirements and wearing a PFD at all times while on the deck of large vessels and while aboard smaller vessels. During contacts when vessels do not have enough PFDs available for persons aboard, he provides the boaters with appropriate PFDs, ensuring a greater degree of safety for the boating public. He is fair when dealing with violators. Statistics show that he gives more warnings than citations. He has consistently had the highest boating safety contacts for troopers in the Southeast Region.



Deputy  
**Eddie Hipol**  
Solano County Sheriff's  
Office  
**California**

Deputy Eddie Hipol is a six-year veteran of the Solano County Sheriff's Office. For the last two years, he has served as a deputy assigned to the Marine Safety and Enforcement Program. As a longtime outdoorsman, he was a perfect choice to join the already successful program.

On June 12, 2004, Deputy Hipol and his partner, Deputy Randy Scandalis, were on patrol in the water outside of Rio Vista. They docked and made contact with a group of recreational boaters at Snug Harbor. The group sat down and talked for several minutes. Even while finding himself in a social environment, Deputy Hipol continued to monitor the activities on the water. He kept a close watch on the areas around the dock because he heard sounds he could not readily identify. Deputy Hipol saw what appeared to be the top of a small boy's head bobbing up and down beside the dock. Without hesitation, he jumped a small fence that separated him from the dock area, ran down to the dock, and saw a five-year-old boy holding onto the side of the dock and wearing no personal flotation device. The officer pulled the child to safety and reunited him with his parents. The boy's parents had no idea that their son had wandered off and fell into the water.

A similar incident had occurred on January 6, 2003. In this instance, a four-year-old child had wandered away from his parents and had fallen in at the Sandy Beach boat launch. Fortunately Deputy Hipol was at the scene and pulled the youngster from the water.

In both of the cases, Deputy Hipol was the only person aware that these children, who were not wearing personal flotation devices, had fallen into the water. Deputy Hipol was clearly responsible for saving both of their lives.



Deputy  
**Brian Hippe**  
Ada County Sheriff's  
Office  
**Idaho**

Deputy Brian Hippe has been with the Ada County Sheriff's Office for 11 years. He serves as a marine deputy in the summer and as a juvenile detective the rest of the year.

While on routine patrol of Lucky Peak Reservoir on July 11, 2004, he was flagged down by a boater with an injured child on board. The girl, a 10-year-old named Veronica, was the victim of a strange stream of events.

Veronica and her siblings had been tubing behind the family boat. They were headed across the lake with the tube and ski line on the back swim deck. The girl was sitting on the back of the boat. Somehow the ski line got wrapped around her neck, then the wind pulled the tube out of the boat. Veronica was jerked right out of the boat into the water. She had serious neck injuries and had lost consciousness.

Deputy Hippe was alone in his patrol boat. He transferred the injured girl to his boat to evaluate her condition. He recognized the severity of her injuries and radioed for paramedics and an air ambulance to meet him, then he transported her to the nearest boat ramp. On shore, Hippe administered CPR when she lost vital signs. After a few cycles of rescue breaths and chest compressions, he re-evaluated and found a pulse and shallow breathing. Deputy Hippe monitored the girl's condition and tried to keep her airway open. Veronica repeatedly stopped breathing and her pulse stopped at least two more times. Each time Deputy Hippe resumed rescue breathing and CPR, and each time, Veronica began breathing again.

The life-saving measures continued for approximately 15 minutes, until paramedics arrived and took over. Veronica was immediately taken to the hospital by helicopter.

Veronica's lungs had been nearly 80 percent full of lake water. The near drowning and the damage to the trachea had made the rescue breathing efforts nearly impossible. However, the close and accurate monitoring coupled with the immediate and proper use of CPR techniques saved 10-year-old Veronica's life.

# WESTERN region



Game Warden  
**Dave Loewen**  
Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
**Montana**

Game Warden Dave Loewen has continued to prove himself an asset to Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks while providing extraordinary service to the recreational community. He has strived to meet the demands of the growing recreational boating population in the area by working the busy waters at a variety of key times, focusing and customizing his presence to attain maximum effect.

During his career with the department, Warden Loewen has worked a wide range of areas. His skills and extensive knowledge regarding water-based recreation stem from his service in the U.S. Coast Guard and as a warden in northeast Montana, patrolling Fort Peck Reservoir. He uses that experience in his current assignment where water-based recreation comprises a major component of a warden's duties.

Warden Loewen continually shows his deep commitment in teaching water safety. He has led classes in water safety and vessel use for the public, members of local organizations as well as resource agency personnel. He has also assisted the Coast Guard Auxiliary with their boating instruction. Warden Loewen's expertise is recognized and respected by other FWP personnel who seek him out for advice and assistance. Always positive and helpful when contacting the public, Warden Loewen provides information and guidance as well as advice to those less versed in the operation of boats and the rules of the waterways.

Warden Loewen's abilities and skill shone through on an evening early last spring while on routine patrol near Hauser Lake. Two individuals – neither of which was wearing a PFD and both intoxicated – had capsized a 14-foot aluminum boat in the middle of a channel about 300 yards south of the bridge. Both occupants were in water that was barely 50 degrees. Warden Loewen flagged down a man with a river raft and together they rowed out to the victims. One victim was holding on to the boat's bow; the other was trying to grasp hold but was struggling in the attempt. The capsized boat wasn't buoyant enough to keep them both afloat and they were trying to tread water fully clothed. Loewen pulled both victims into the raft, saving their lives.



Game Warden  
**Paul Hearne**  
Division of Wildlife  
**Nevada**

Game Warden Paul Hearne is a professional, team-driven officer who has made a boating safety career patrolling the Colorado River System, one of the most dangerous recreational waterways in the nation.

Hearne started in Laughlin, Nevada, on a narrow stretch of the Colorado River that twists between Arizona and Nevada. Aside from temperatures as high as 120 degrees, that section of river pulls more boaters than it can hold, creating a dangerous and difficult place to enforce the law and keep boaters safe. From that "frying pan," Hearne moved into the deep fryer, patrolling massive Lake Mead.

While in Laughlin, Hearne helped in reducing accidents and educated boaters with a friendly, professional and no-nonsense style. When he moved to Lake Mead, he stepped up his education while providing assistance to a sometimes stranded and distressed boating public. Hearne has assisted in dozens of search and rescue operations, aiding boaters in distress under the difficult heat and wind conditions unique to massive desert reservoirs.

On Lake Mead, Hearne proved to be a bloodhound, sniffing out drunken boaters and getting them off the water. His operating under the influence arrests over the years have produced a safer boating environment in his jurisdiction and beyond.

When unable to get unsafe boaters off the lake or prevent an accident, Hearne conducts thorough, professional boating accident investigations, resulting in a picture that helps reduce recurring problems. He not only responds to emergencies after the fact but he also conducts hundreds of safety inspections per year on boats, providing a safer, more sane boating environment on the Colorado River System that includes Lake Mead.



Deputy  
**Jimmy Gyllenskog**  
Jackson County Sheriff's  
Office  
**Oregon**

Deputy Jimmy Gyllenskog has been with the Jackson County Sheriff's Office for over 20 years. He began working as a marine deputy after he requested a transfer from Corrections to the Criminal Division in 2003. Accomplishments during his first year in the program netted him the distinction as Oregon's 2003 Marine Rookie of the Year. His continued efforts throughout 2004 earned him the distinction of being named Oregon's "2004 Marine Officer of the Year" in just his second year on the job.

With Oregon having 40 full-time, 122 seasonal and 100 part-time deputies and troopers working in the statewide program, a lot of statistics are generated. Deputy Gyllenskog pulls his weight, racking up impressive numbers of his own: 535 written boat examination reports, 130 citations and hundreds of warnings, 43 BUI arrests, 2 stolen boat/motor recoveries, and 36 boater safety classes at elementary and high schools.

Local school boating safety efforts by marine program personnel are being curtailed due to competition from mandated education.

Therefore, Gyllenskog worked with curriculum supervisors at local high schools and was able to incorporate his boating safety classes into their health curriculum. This effort has given local students the opportunity to qualify for their Oregon Boater Education Card, which allows them to operate boats of 10 hp or more.

His primary patrol area being the world-famous Rogue River, Deputy Gyllenskog has proven to be extremely skilled in white-water jet boat operations and has participated in numerous water rescues and body recovery missions.

He is an exemplary employee of the Jackson County Sheriff's Office as well as an outstanding marine deputy. Deputy Gyllenskog has been, and continues to be, the epitome of a marine unit "Bulldog" deputy whose positive attitude and work ethic have earned him the respect of co-workers and supervisors. He is a valued asset to his local marine unit and to Oregon's Marine Law Enforcement Program.

# WESTERN region



Officer  
**Jared Jones**  
Division of Parks and  
Recreation  
**Utah**

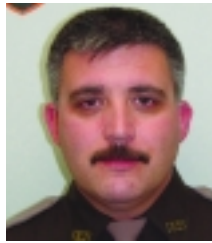
Officer Jared Jones is the Assistant Boating Area Manager at Lake Powell for the Utah Division of Parks and Recreation. Lake Powell is the second largest reservoir in the United States and is visited by over 2 million boaters annually. Officer Jones's area of responsibility includes hundreds of miles of boating waters and three major marinas.

To help ensure that visitors have a safe and meaningful boating experience, Officer Jones goes beyond the extra mile. He has a caring, professional attitude when dealing with the public and fellow workers.

Officer Jones is positive thinking and a team player, proving to be a great asset to the boaters, Division and associated agencies. Jones works closely with various agencies to provide public safety to those recreating at Lake Powell. He has initiated and maintained great working relationships with local representatives of the National Park Service, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, County Sheriffs Departments and the lake's concessionaire. His participation in aiding other officers during agency assist incidents and multi-agency search and rescues has been greatly appreciated. His supervisors on numerous occasions have been told by other agencies how much they appreciate all that Officer Jones does.

A dedicated, hard-working boating officer, Officer Jones has spent over 2,000 hours on patrol, contacted over 2,000 boats, issued 1,300 warnings, written nearly 500 citations, and arrested over 50 percent of all BUIs in Utah during the past two years. In addition he has completed dozens of boat inspections, accident investigations and SARs. Jones is the only Utah PWC course instructor in his area and he teaches at least one class per week during the boating season.

In addition to his duties on the water, Officer Jones has taken on the collateral duties of a defensive tactics and an ASP baton instructor. The training to become and maintain instructor status in these areas is physically demanding and requires him to travel and be away from home frequently.



Marine Deputy  
**Paul Downs**  
Douglas County Sheriff's  
Office  
**Washington**

Deputy Paul Downs exhibits a quiet competence and professionalism, which has given his supervisor the confidence to let him create and execute his own marine program. The officer has demonstrated a broad range of knowledge, skills and abilities related to boating safety.

As the only full-time law enforcement officer with the sheriff's office and with a patrol area that stretches from Crescent Bar to Grand Coulee Dam, Deputy Downs stays busy when it comes to maintaining effective enforcement activities. He uses good judgment and enforces a wide range of boating laws. In addition, he investigates boat accidents, even during his time off.

Deputy Downs aggressively seeks to improve his own proficiency as an officer. After completing the basic marine law enforcement training, he successfully finished the boat accident investigation training as well as the boating under the influence training. He also regularly attends state marine law enforcement conferences to keep abreast of current boating issues.

Besides furthering his own education, Deputy Downs uses his expertise to educate the public – both adults and children about boating safety. Examples include teaching a block of instruction for the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary's basic boating school and presenting boating safety classes to children at summer camp.

In the area of public relations, Deputy Downs' efforts are second to none. He has formed a useful partnership with personal watercraft rental proprietors, park rangers and park supervisors. This has been valuable in gaining voluntary compliance of boating laws and tracking recreational boating trends. Deputy Downs also utilizes local fairs, parades and other opportunities to promote boating safety.

In addition to these regular duties, Deputy Downs plays a significant role in homeland security. Five hydroelectric dams are located in or are adjacent to Downs' patrol area. He actively patrols waterside access points to these infrastructure facilities.



Game Warden  
**Rod Lebert**  
Game and Fish  
Department  
**Wyoming**

Douglas Game Warden Rod Lebert continues to serve the boating public with real enthusiasm. He provides and performs outstanding service to the state and to the Wyoming Game and Fish Department in watercraft safety and enforcement.

Warden Rod Lebert is a 16-year veteran with the department. He started as the Casper Region Damage Control warden in 1989, then transferred to the Douglas Game Warden District in 1993 where he continues to serve today. During his career, Lebert has gained the respect of other law enforcement agencies, landowners, hunters, anglers and the boating public, as well as other department employees and fellow game wardens. Additionally, he has developed and maintained an outstanding working relationship with the Platte County Judge and County Attorney, which has resulted in many excellent watercraft cases being prosecuted and defendants being justly sentenced.

In 1994, the duties and workload of the Douglas Warden District greatly changed as Glendo Reservoir was moved into the Douglas Warden District. With the addition of Glendo Reservoir, Deputy Lebert was assigned to the lead watercraft law enforcement role for one of Wyoming's busiest fishing and recreational boating waters. He now spends several hundred work-hours a summer enforcing Wyoming's watercraft laws.

To address high boater use and associated law enforcement problems and high violation rates at Glendo Reservoir, Warden Lebert has proactively used the department's law enforcement task force approach during holiday periods (this is in addition to his routine weekly watercraft patrols). During each holiday period for the past eight years, Deputy Lebert has worked with area wardens to develop and implement watercraft task forces. These task forces bring in additional game wardens to keep a fair but firm law enforcement presence on the lake. These task forces have been a great success as they emphasize safety as well as compliance with watercraft laws.

During the 2004 Memorial Day Holiday weekend, Warden Lebert along with three other wardens responded to a capsized boat and prevented a double drowning in extreme weather conditions. Lebert is heavily involved in watercraft safety education. Each spring, he works with the local Safe Kids organization to produce a hands-on watercraft safety program.

# NASBLA Conference Provides *Cornucopia of Information*

By Kimberly Hermes

Portland, Oregon – also known as the City of Roses – provided a beautiful backdrop for the 46th annual conference of the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA). Drawing more than 250 registered participants, the event was held Sept. 18-21, 2005.

Boating safety and enforcement professionals from around the country gathered to discuss numerous issues affecting recreational boating safety, network with their peers, and receive awards and recognition for their achievements throughout the year.

In addition to committee meetings and executive board meetings, pre-conference activities included a workshop for new boating law administrators (BLAs) and a Coast Guard/BLA workshop. Both sessions offered valuable information for boating program administrators and covered topics including the state recreational boating safety programs, partnerships, funding, resources and more. Orientation was also held for those who had never been to a NASBLA conference.

The conference kicked off Sunday evening with the opening ceremonies. Rear Admiral Richard Houck, 13th Coast Guard District commander, served as the evening's keynote speaker. Rear Admiral Houck spoke about heroes, particularly the Coast Guard's rescue workers and showed an action-packed video depicting some of their heroic feats. He then discussed recreational boating safety and encouraged the participants to find the best practices and share their ideas and programs.

Next, Major Dirk Maurer, with the U.S. Marine Corps, addressed the group. He serves as counsel for Senator Collins on the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. Major Maurer talked about the recent hurricanes and the events of 9/11 and their effect on state agencies. He also discussed how the states are not receiving grant funding for their homeland security missions. He stressed that success against terrorism hinges on strategy and partnerships.

Brian Spillman, BLA for Louisiana, concluded the night's business by describing the affects of Hurricane Katrina

along the Gulf Coast. He expressed deep appreciation to everyone who had volunteered to help.

The conference's general session began Monday morning with a discussion of social marketing and how it can be applied to recreational boating safety. Social marketing is the use of commercial marketing techniques to promote ideas, attitudes and behaviors. State representatives from Florida and Ohio then discussed their respective state's success in marketing safe boating.

Other presentations that day included a presentation about NOAA's marine preserves, a homeland security panel discussion, a session on stopping the spread of aquatic invasive species, a discussion of using accident data in developing boating safety programs and a session on the U.S. Coast Guard's efforts to track boat accidents.

The morning of the second day was set aside for boating law administrators to meet and discuss NASBLA's strategic planning, committee work, proposed resolutions and models acts, and other business items. To ensure that the BLAs would not miss anything, no general session programs or breakouts were held that morning. Rather, the other attendees were given free time to use as they pleased. Many took advantage of this to tour Portland and the surrounding area.

Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday morning were devoted to breakout sessions. One popular presentation dealt with how to avoid political train wrecks. Other breakouts covered new testing standards for boating education exams, federal carriage requirements, U.S. Coast Guard Marine Law Enforcement School, boating safety course approval, abandoned boats, and NASBLA's boating under the influence training.

A meeting held Wednesday afternoon wrapped up the association's business. Members voted on various action items and approved several resolutions. The



The National Association of State Boating Law Administrators held its 46th annual conference in Portland, Oregon. The city offered a perfect venue for the gathering of boating safety and enforcement professionals.

Photo courtesy Portland Oregon Visitors Association

following resolutions were presented and approved:

## **Resolution 2005-01**

In Appreciation for George W. Stewart Jr.'s Thirty-Three-Year Career in Recreational Boating Safety

## **Resolution 2005-02**

In support of a cooperative partnership to develop an electronic database on the location of the secondary hull identification numbers (HINs) of boat manufacturers.

## **Resolution 2005-03**

In recognition of the 25th Anniversary of Mothers Against Drunk Driving

## **Resolution 2005-04**

In recognition of the 125th Anniversary of the American Canoe Association

Also during the business meeting, the body elected NASBLA's officers for 2005-06: President – Charlie Sledd, Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries Vice President – Jeff Johnson, Alaska Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation Treasurer – Corby Christensen, Idaho Department of Parks & Recreation Member-at-Large – Richard Moore, Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission Member-at-Large – John Fetterman, Maine Department of Marine Resources Member-at-Large – Raynor Tsuneyoshi, California Department of Boating Waterways

The conference ended with a banquet during which various awards were presented recognizing the hard work and dedication of numerous individuals.

▲ ▲ ▲

# NASBLA Appreciates Those Dedicated to Boating Safety

Each year, the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) proudly presents awards to recognize those persons or groups for their achievements in boating safety throughout the year.

## Life Member Awards

The Life Member Award is bestowed upon former members of NASBLA who will no longer serve in that capacity because of a change in duties, retirement or other reasons. Eight former NASBLA members were recognized with this award during the organization's annual conference:

- Bill Daniels – retired West Virginia BLA
- Russ Pollard – former Wyoming BLA
- Marisa Gonzalez – former Puerto Rico BLA
- James Colgan – former Vermont BLA
- Jerry Adams – former Missouri BLA
- Al Durham – former District of Columbia BLA
- Mike Bogdanowicz – former North Carolina BLA
- David Street – retiring commander of the Safety Education Division for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources

## Distinguished Life Member Award

The Distinguished Life Member Award is given to those members of NASBLA who have served as a NASBLA committee chair or board member during their boating career, but who will no longer serve in that capacity because of a change in duties, retirement or other reasons. Two longtime NASBLA members received this award in 2005:

- Charlie Clark – retired Louisiana BLA, NASBLA Past President
- Bob Sanders – retired Oklahoma BLA, former NASBLA Board Member & Committee Chair

## The President's Special Award

NASBLA President Randy Edwards selected several individuals for special recognition for their contribution this past year to boating safety and NASBLA:

- John Fetterman – Maine's coastal BLA, chair of NASBLA's Homeland Security Committee
- Michael Sciulla – BoatU.S.
- VADM James Underwood – U.S. Coast Guard
- Captain Scott Evans – U.S. Coast Guard
- Kim Elverum – Boating Law Administrator, Minnesota

- Fred Messmann – Boating Law Administrator, Nevada
- John Cullather – Minority Staff Director for the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation (House of Representatives, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure)
- Jim Sartucci – Legislative Director for Senator Trent Lott (Mississippi)

## Boating Safety Award

Dolores Farrell, Boating Operations Division Chief for the California Department of Boating and Waterways (Cal Boating), was awarded with the NASBLA Boating Safety Award.

First presented in 1992, the boating safety award is bestowed upon a state or local government individual (with the exception of the boating law administrator) who is involved in boating safety and who has demonstrated outstanding performance in any area of the program, including but not limited to: enforcement, education, search and rescue, navigational aids, or registration and titling.

As Cal Boating's Chief of Boating Operations, Farrell supervises a number of staffers who carry out various programs such as boating safety, education, enforcement, yacht and shipbroker licensing, and the state's Abandoned Vessel Abatement Program.

Cal Boating Director Raynor Tsuneyoshi said, "Dolores has been a driving force in improving existing efforts and introducing new concepts for advancing a safety message both in our state and through the NASBLA boating education committee. This recognition is well-deserved," Tsuneyoshi said.

Among Farrell's most prominent achievements is the AquaSmart Boating program for high school students. The course rounds off the full spectrum of boating education that is custom tailored for various groups and boating safety issues. Farrell has been a frequent speaker at boating safety seminars and her charming and witty style always ensures a full house wherever she makes a presentation.



Dolores Farrell, Boating Operations Division chief for Cal Boating, recently received the NASBLA Boating Safety Award. Dolores was selected as the recipient for her demonstrated excellence in improving existing efforts and introducing new concepts for advancing boating safety both in California and through the NASBLA boating education committee. Photo courtesy Cal Boating

Farrell has been a member of the NASBLA Education Committee for a number of years and is always one of the first to volunteer to pitch in to help on projects and subcommittees. Farrell is always quick to credit her staff for the work that California has done, and she is well loved and admired by the people who work for her.

## NASBLA Award

Roger Hagie, director of Public Affairs at Kawasaki Motors Corp., U.S.A., received the

NASBLA Award. First presented in 1969, the annual award is given to a person or persons who have made substantial and sustained contributions to NASBLA and boating safety in general.

In presenting the award, Kim Elverum, NASBLA Awards Committee chair, noted Hagie's many contributions to the goals of NASBLA and other boating safety initiatives. Hagie's involvement with boating safety and education dates back to the mid-1970s when Kawasaki first launched the JET SKI® watercraft product line.

Hagie is a charter member of the Personal Watercraft Industry Association (PWIA) Board of Directors. His 17 years on the board easily makes him the longest serving director. As director, he helped coordinate the PWIA Model Act on personal watercraft with a similar act drafted by NASBLA. He was instrumental in having the mandatory boater safety education provision included in the PWIA model act.

Some of Hagie's other many accomplishments over the years include:

- Serving as a member of the National Boating Safety Advisory Council.
- Involvement with the Coast Guard Auxiliary in a number of safety and education activities.
- Working the National Transportation Safety Board on PWC issues.
- Serving on numerous NASBLA committees. As part of the committee

work, helping develop the NASBLA PWC Officer orientation program.

- Directing Kawasaki's long-standing sponsorship of the California Water Safety program for elementary schools.
- Serving as a sponsor and participant in the Colorado River Law Enforcement Association conferences for a number of years.
- Working with state boating safety specialists in Arizona, Oregon, and Washington State on specific PWC safety and education initiatives.

### **Bonner Award**

Randy Edwards, NASBLA president and Iowa's boating law administrator, was selected as the 2005 Bonner Award recipient. First presented in 1971, this award is bestowed upon a state or federal boating official who exemplifies the leadership qualities displayed by former Congressman Herbert C. Bonner of North Carolina, author of the Bonner Act (better known as the Federal Boating Safety Act of 1958).

Edwards receive the Bonner Award in recognition of the outstanding leadership he displayed during his term as NASBLA President, which proved to be a challenging, pivotal, and in some cases, a difficult year for the association.

In addition to the president's usual duties of presiding over the work of the Executive Board and NASBLA's policy committees, Edwards' term saw other significant events including the retirement of Executive Director George Stewart and the final lap in Wallop-Breaux Trust re-authorization effort.

While these events were unfolding, Edwards also stepped forward to initiate and lead a critical self-evaluation and strategic

planning exercise that, while sometimes difficult, encouraged new ways of thinking about how NASBLA can improve. While new federal laws affecting non-profits prompted some of these changes, Edwards recognized and took the opportunity to identify, evaluate and consider adopting proactive behaviors and best practices in self-regulation and effective association governance. These changes will help ensure the continued credibility of NASBLA and build an even more efficient and professional organization.

Edwards was able to actively and genuinely engage the Executive Board members, the staff and the membership this past year, in part because of his willingness to listen to and consider the ideas of others. In addition, he continually demonstrated his sincerity and his dedication to making NASBLA a more effective organization. The products of his leadership will be realized for many years to come.

### **Lifetime Achievement Award**

NASBLA President Randy Edwards commended the longtime and continuing support of Ed Carter, boating law administrator for Tennessee, by presenting him with the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award for 2005. First presented in 1998, this award was designed for persons who have contributed to boating safety over their lifetime or career.

Carter, longtime NASBLA member and two-time NASBLA president, has been with the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) for 33 years, working the majority of this time in the boating program. In addition to serving as the state's boating law administrator, Carter is the agency's chief of boating. He has also served as TWRA's emergency services coordinator for over 15 years.

A longtime member of the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators, Carter is the only member to have served two consecutive terms as president (1995-96 and 1997-98). He also served as president of the Southern States



Roger Hagie, director of Public Affairs at Kawasaki Motors Corp., U.S.A., received the NASBLA President's Award in recognition of his substantial and sustained contributions to NASBLA and other boating safety initiatives. Hagie's involvement with boating safety and education dates back to the mid-1970s. *Staff photo*

Boating Law Administrators Association in 1983.

Carter has been the chair of the NASBLA Government Services Committee for several years and has been instrumental in the last four reauthorizations of Wallop-Breaux. In March 2004, he was appointed by Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge to the National Boating Safety Advisory Council. Carter is also currently serving the first of a two-year term as chairman of the National

Safe Boating Council.

A highly acclaimed boating safety professional, Carter has received many awards over the years, including the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Certificate of Appreciation, U.S. Department of Transportation, U.S. Coast Guard Distinguished Public Service Award (1996), Water Safety Congress Certificate of Appreciation (1991), National Safe Boating Council Chair Award (1996, 1997 & 2000), NASBLA's Bonner Award (1996), NASBLA Award (1997), National Water Safety Congress Award of Merit (2000), and NASBLA Special Presidential Award (2003 & 2004).

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

Randy Edwards received the Past President's Awards in recognition of his service to the organization during his term of office. Edwards had a very busy and productive year in office. He saw fruition to the organization's longtime efforts to get the Wallop-Breaux Trust Fund reauthorized. He also initiated a major reorganization of NASBLA and addressed its relationship with its regional associations. Edwards worked diligently with the executive board, NASBLA staff and the recently retired executive director, George Stewart, in continuing a strategy for accomplishing NASBLA's goal of safer and more enjoyable boating, and the associated funding to carry it out. He also worked very closely with NASBLA's much-appreciated partners in boating safety in industry, safety organizations, boater's groups, the American League of Anglers and Boaters and the U.S. Coast Guard.



For his long-standing devotion to boating safety, Tennessee Boating Law Administrator Ed Carter was presented with the NASBLA Lifetime Achievement Awards during the annual conference of the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators. Carter, a longtime NASBLA member and two-time NASBLA president, has worked the majority of his career with the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency in boating safety and enforcement. *Staff photo*



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

## Is Anyone Out There?

When teaching public education courses, the topic of emergency communications comes into play. We usually go through the protocols to observe while using the VHF marine radio and we explain the jargon used in emergency broadcasts. During these discussions we seldom find boaters that have a practical awareness of what help may be available should they get into trouble.

To complicate matters further, recreational boaters have access to an enormous variety of waterways and such. We have coastal waters, major rivers, bays, streams, lakes, impoundments and more. Should an accident or emergency occur most boaters have not thought about how readily accessible help may be. On the highways a call to 911 will usually put a motorist in contact with an emergency operator or central dispatch. Not always, but coverage is pretty broad. And, this may lead boaters to assume that, when they are on a boat, help is just a cell phone call away.

On federal waterways, as we know, the U.S. Coast Guard promotes the use of VHF radio in emergency situations and cautions against reliance on cell phones. The Rescue 21 project will make this advice even more important where the system is available. For more information, visit [www.uscg.mil/rescue21/home](http://www.uscg.mil/rescue21/home). The Rescue 21 project will upgrade Coast Guard communications equipment at shore facilities and on Coast Guard vessels and provide a number of features not now available.

On coastal waters a boater, once in contact with the Coast Guard, can expect to see a response from fellow boaters, a commercial towing service or the Coast Guard. If a serious emergency exists, Coast Guard response may be dispatched.

On western rivers the Coast Guard does not have response capability along the thousands of miles of rivers covered by its radio systems. Instead, the radio operator has a number of huge card files that list, by

river mile, what local agencies may be available to assist boaters. These include state agencies, municipalities and volunteer rescue units.

Of course, in the above scenarios it is extremely helpful that a boater know where their boat is located. Too often boaters lack the knowledge of how to



On the way to the rescue, this Coast Guard Auxiliarist maintains communication with a stranded boater. Recreational boaters are encouraged to equip their vessels with VHF radios. These devices are particularly useful in emergency situations. Photo courtesy U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary

pinpoint and describe where they are located so the right kind of help can be dispatched.

On the water, the age-old question of where is a cop when you need them takes on extra meaning. Even though the phrase originates from highway experiences, the waterway situation is even more problematic. With marine law enforcement, no matter what the source, resources tend to be spread thin. Budget constraints and homeland security missions place a severe strain on most

agencies. Further, nighttime coverage is even spottier than during daytime hours. At best, in many locations, overall coverage is focused on an irregular schedule with extra focus on special events.

For folks who like to engage in paddlesports, access by law enforcement and rescue resources can be further complicated as those boaters often use more remote waterways. These sports enthusiasts regularly boat on streams that have no regular coverage from any agencies. In addition, depending on local situations, rescue units may or may not be readily available.

To summarize, boaters should be knowledgeable about the environment where they do their boating. In our public education classes, we should engage students in discussions about what to expect and how to provide for emergency and non-emergency help. Where VHF radios are in common use, boaters should be encouraged to equip their boats with one of the many high-quality, low-cost units that are available. Also, they should be encouraged to carry cell phones and check for coverage where they boat. Another useful tool is a simple float plan that ensures that some responsible person knows where the boater plans to go and when that boater plans to return or arrive at another destination.

For the paddlesport or hunting enthusiasts that frequent remote waters, they should check out available communications and travel in groups wherever possible. Again, float plans are essential and can be the difference between a pleasant experience and a tragedy.

It is not enough to inform students how to communicate. We should also help them think through how to provide for help in emergency situations.





Jeff Hoedt  
Chief, Office of Boating Safety



## Law Enforcement – Boating Safety and So Much More

In this era of strategic planning, government programs must have measurable goals and objectives. And, we must implement the most effective strategies to achieve those goals and objectives. Such a strategy for recreational boating safety is law enforcement. Coast Guard, state, local and other officers enhance compliance with the laws, educate the public about safety, and provide highly trained search and rescue services. The outcome is that these officers save lives, help prevent accidents, and

enhance boaters' experiences. And yet, boating safety officers do so much more.

The need for a boating safety officer's varied abilities has become especially evident this decade. The September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks awakened our country to the need for enhanced security. And that need on the water quickly led us to acknowledge the value of the state patrols as an effective force multiplier on our nation's waterways.

Then, the impacts of Hurricane Katrina on August 29, 2005 awakened us to another need of these officers. The

resulting floods required great resources to rescue and evacuate multitudes of people. Officers were also needed to prevent looting and provide other vital services.

Thankfully, the cooperative efforts of the various boating safety officers continue to be a crucial part of these successful responses. Working as a team, officers from across the country join ranks and support each other. They serve the country, and they do it well, with the utmost expertise and honor. Thanks and Bravo Zulu to you all.

### The New Marine Patrol Officer Course

*By Joe Carro, Office of Boating Safety, U.S. Coast Guard*

This has been a busy year. Hurricanes Katrina and Rita have provided challenges for all of our agencies. They have tested and taxed our personnel and resources like never before. In response, law enforcement officers from across the nation have stepped up and provided the cooperative service we have come to know, expect and demand of ourselves.

This interagency cooperation didn't just happen. It developed in large part because of the relationships we have with our neighbor states, the Coast Guard, and individual officers both at the command level and the patrol officer level.

I may be a little biased, but I believe the Marine Patrol Officer Course (MPOC) has played some part in promoting this officer relationship. How many of you have been to the MPOC or even the National Boating Safety Instructor Course (NBSIC)? How many of you have developed friendships with other officers as a result of these courses? And how many of you have kept in touch with these officers so when the call went out for assistance, you didn't hesitate to say, "Hey, I know those guys! How can I help?"

This year's MPOC classes promise to be some of the best. The Coast Guard Maritime Law Enforcement Academy (MLEA), previously known as the Maritime Law Enforcement School located at Yorktown, Va., has been established at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Charleston, S.C. for nearly a year. The facility continues to grow; and vessel boarding opportunities have increased as there are now two fully operational Tactical Shipboard Trainers.

All of these facilities are, or soon will be, equipped with video recording equipment to assist with student evaluations in training scenarios, including the use of non-lethal training ammunition.

Many of you know there will be four MPOC classes this year. The dates of these classes are provided, since opportunities to attend may still exist at this time. Contact your state boating law administrator or me for additional information.

November 28-December 9, 2005

February 27-March 10, 2006

March 27-April 7, 2006

April 10-21, 2006

Here is more great news: We are awaiting a final decision regarding proposed changes to the MPOC course content. Meetings and discussions were held at the MLEA to determine what, if any, changes were needed within the MPOC curriculum. Attendees included representatives from Coast Guard Headquarters, the MLEA, the USCG Special Missions Training Center and Mr. Jim Graybeal from the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA).

Student feedback, survey results, individual input and recommendations from NASBLA have been considered regarding specific changes to the course content. The result, with Marine Patrol Officers and the boating public being the primary beneficiaries, was the development of two different courses, which we shall refer to as MPOC-A and MPOC-B.

Much of the content of these two courses will be similar in that the information will be beneficial to all marine patrol enforcement officers and, in some cases, other attendees. Some of the content is brand-new and focuses on law enforcement methods and technologies. The current MPOC includes a 40-hour instructor development block of instruction during the first week of the course. The first week of MPOC-B will cover boarding procedures, federal carriage requirements, gym, boarding platform, shoot house scenarios and more. The second week will also incorporate changes. The current course includes an introduction to Coast Guard Boating Under the Influence regulations and policy. MPOC-B will include the full Boating Under the Influence (BUI) live alcohol workshop block of instruction into the second week. Other blocks of instruction will remain the same, including the Accident Investigation and Reporting class, presented by a NASBLA guest instructor, and the Marine Theft Investigation class, presented by an IAMI instructor.

A final decision regarding these changes and implementation of a second course has not yet been reached. When this decision is made, all boating law administrators will be contacted to facilitate any personnel changes to existing MPOC candidates. If you would like to attend or have your officers attend the existing course, please submit your applications now. There may still be openings available in this already great program.



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## 2006 RECREATIONAL BOATING SAFETY CALENDAR

### JANUARY 2006

**4 - 7**

National Sheriffs' Association  
Mid-Winter Conference  
Palm Springs, California  
703.836.7827

**4 - 8**

United States Power Squadrons  
Annual Meeting  
Orlando, Florida  
888.367.8777

**9 - 13**

NASBLA  
National Comprehensive Boating Accident  
Investigation and Analysis Level 1 Training  
Kissimmee, Florida  
859.225.9487 or [chris@nasbla.org](mailto:chris@nasbla.org)

**18 - 22**

US Sailing  
National Sailing Programs Symposium  
Long Beach, California  
401.683.0800 or [nsps@ussailing.org](mailto:nsps@ussailing.org)

**23 - 24**

American Boat & Yacht Council  
Conference on Marine Industry Technical Training  
Tampa, Florida  
410.956.1050

**29 - February 1**

Association of Marina Industries and  
American Boat Builders & Repairers Association  
International Marina & Boatyard Conference  
Orlando, Florida  
866.367.6622

**30 - February 3**

NASBLA  
National Comprehensive Boating Accident  
Investigation and Analysis Level 1 Training  
Chattanooga, Tennessee  
859.225.9487 or [chris@nasbla.org](mailto:chris@nasbla.org)

### FEBRUARY 2006

**13 - 15**

NASBLA  
Boating Under the Influence  
Detection and Enforcement Training  
Des Moines, Iowa  
859.225.9487 or [chris@nasbla.org](mailto:chris@nasbla.org)

**26 - March 1**

International Association of Marine Investigators  
Annual Training Seminar  
Virginia Beach, Virginia  
866.844.4264

### MARCH 2006

**13 - 15**

NASBLA  
Boating Under the Influence  
Detection and Enforcement Training  
Albuquerque, New Mexico  
859.225.9487 or [chris@nasbla.org](mailto:chris@nasbla.org)

**27 - 31**

NASBLA  
National Comprehensive Boating Accident  
Investigation and Analysis Level 1 Training  
Salt Lake City, Utah  
859.225.9487 or [chris@nasbla.org](mailto:chris@nasbla.org)

**27 - 29**

NASBLA  
Boating Under the Influence  
Detection and Enforcement Training  
Ashburn, Virginia  
859.225.9487 or [chris@nasbla.org](mailto:chris@nasbla.org)

### APRIL 2006

**3 - 5**

NASBLA  
Boating Under the Influence  
Detection and Enforcement Training  
Ft. Worth, Texas  
859.225.9487 or [chris@nasbla.org](mailto:chris@nasbla.org)

**22**

National Boating Federation  
Alameda, California  
510.523.2098

**24 - 28**

NASBLA  
National Comprehensive Boating Accident  
Investigation and Analysis Level 1 Training  
Ashburn, Virginia  
859.225.9487 or [chris@nasbla.org](mailto:chris@nasbla.org)

**29**

NASBLA  
Paddlesports Committee Meeting  
Palm Harbor, Florida  
859.225.9487 or [gail@nasbla.org](mailto:gail@nasbla.org)

**29**

NASBLA  
Waterways Management Committee Meeting  
Palm Harbor, Florida  
859.225.9487 or [john@nasbla.org](mailto:john@nasbla.org)

**30**

NASBLA  
Education Committee Meeting  
Palm Harbor, Florida  
859.225.9487 or [gail@nasbla.org](mailto:gail@nasbla.org)

**30 - May 3**

International Boating and Water Safety Summit  
Palm Harbor, Florida  
703.361.4294  
501.844.2197

**30 - 3**

National Marine Manufacturers Association  
American Boating Congress  
Washington, D.C.  
202.737.9759 or [mlong@nmma.org](mailto:mlong@nmma.org)

### MAY 2006

**14 - 17**

NASBLA  
Western States Boating Administrators Association  
Annual Conference  
Kauai, Hawaii  
208.334.4180 x 224

**15 - 19**

NASBLA  
National Comprehensive Boating Accident  
Investigation and Analysis Level 1 Training  
Indianapolis, Indiana  
859.225.9487 or [chris@nasbla.org](mailto:chris@nasbla.org)

**16**

National Safe Boating Week  
Congressional Reception  
Washington, D.C.  
703.361.4294

**20 - 26**

National Safe Boating Week  
703.361.4294  
[www.SafeBoatingCampaign.com](http://www.SafeBoatingCampaign.com)  
[campaign@safeboatingcouncil.org](mailto:campaign@safeboatingcouncil.org)

### JUNE 2006

**5 - 9**

NASBLA  
Spring Meeting  
Covington, Kentucky  
859.225.9487 or [info@nasbla.org](mailto:info@nasbla.org)

**17 - 21**

National Sheriffs' Association  
Annual Conference  
Orlando, Florida  
703.836.7827

**19 - 21**

NASBLA  
Boating Under the Influence  
Detection and Enforcement Training  
Maine  
859.225.9487 or [chris@nasbla.org](mailto:chris@nasbla.org)