

# SCA

small craft advisory



■ **Homage Paid  
to Officers**

■ **Achievers  
Announced**

■ **Accident  
Reporting**

# Departments...

from the HELM.....	1
nasbla NEWS .....	2
boating BRIEFS .....	23
partner PERSPECTIVES.....	27
coast guard COMMENTS .....	28

# Features...

Conference Counted as Success ... ..	3
<i>Annual meeting had something for everyone</i>	
Association Acknowledges High-Achievers.....	4
<i>NASBLA thanks boating safety's best</i>	
2007 Boating Law Enforcement Officers of the Year .....	7
<i>A tribute to the country's outstanding boating officers</i>	
Communicating the Importance of Reporting Accidents .....	22
<i>A positive spin can make a positive impact</i>	

## ABOUT THE COVER

Corporal Randy Herman began his career in law enforcement in 1983. He became the year-round marine supervisor for the Clearwater County (Idaho) Sheriff's Department in 1991. In addition to his on-water duties, Corporal Herman is very active in education. He was instrumental in the development of a Personal Watercraft Search and Rescue and Swift Water Rescue School, which has been taught to more than 200 officers. *Photo courtesy Idaho Department of Parks & Recreation*



# SCA

small craft advisory

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

## PRESIDENT

John Fetterman

## VICE PRESIDENT

Richard Moore

## TREASURER

Terry West

## PAST PRESIDENT

Jeff Johnson

## MEMBERS AT LARGE

James Graybeal

George Green

Ron Jendro

## EXECUTIVE EDITOR

John Johnson

## MANAGING EDITOR

Ron Sarver

## EDITOR

Kimberly Hermes Jenkins

## ART DIRECTOR

Michelle Huber

## CIRCULATION DIRECTOR

Sam Lynch

## EDITORIAL OFFICES

1500 Leestown Road, Suite 330

Lexington KY 40511

Phone: 859.225.9487

Fax: 859.231.6403

E-mail: [editor@nasbla.org](mailto:editor@nasbla.org)

© Small Craft Advisory (ISSN: 1066-2383) Published bimonthly by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators, 1500 Leestown Rd, Suite 330, Lexington, KY 40511 (six issues). Subscription is \$12 annually. Contact NASBLA for permission to reprint articles, 859.225.9487. Send change of address to Small Craft Advisory, 1500 Leestown Road, Suite 330, Lexington KY 40511.



## Partners on the Water – The New NASBLA?

Back in the old days (about five years ago), there used to be a period of quiet reflection following the NASBLA annual conference. When the newly elected president hammered the fid to close the annual awards banquet, it meant that time had run out on the old season and whatever unfulfilled aspirations remained from the old administration died quietly along with any remembrance of the old president's cell phone number. But those days are long gone.

In the modern era, the transition between presidents and executive boards is virtually seamless and the downtime between NASBLA "administrations" and fiscal years is virtually nonexistent. *Steady as she goes* has given way to *hit the ground running*. The pace of life in general, and in the business world, has dramatically quickened and that new pace is reflected in NASBLA as well. The transition period from old year to new year is now neatly contained within the flight home from the annual conference.

Just take a look at the NASBLA Strategic Plan held up against the backdrop of the National Recreational Boating Safety (RBS) Strategic Plan and, in addition to the 100-plus individual strategies, you will see a blueprint for advancing boating safety. Seeing this, you will quickly realize that NASBLA, the states and the Coast Guard have their work cut out for them. Although this is the inaugural column for a new year at the helm, NASBLA's business year is already in full swing.

Increasingly, the NASBLA annual conference will be seen as much as the beginning of the new year as it is the end of the old. Changes underway with the reorganized lineup of committees is intended, at least in part, to make the transition between committee years as smooth and as productive as possible. In 2008, part of the committee meetings at the annual conference will actually be spent in the development and design of committee charges for the next year. Despite the success we have achieved collectively over the last 50 years, all RBS stakeholders recognize there is much left to be accomplished and we must continue to look for ways, big and small, to get the most out of each successive season.

Beginning in the spring of 2009, NASBLA will launch a multi-year, nationwide celebration of the association's 50th anniversary. The anniversary celebration will give us a great opportunity, both as an organization of the states and the broader recreational boating safety community, to recognize the contributions the National RBS Program has made over the last five decades.

As you begin to explore the history of our association, one of the hallmarks you soon come to discover is the deep and abiding relationship NASBLA has enjoyed with the recreational boating industry since our inception. The BIA, or Boating Industries Association, as it was known then, was a powerful force in the development of this organization of state officials committed to recreational boating. Together with the U.S. Coast Guard, the American boating industry played a pivotal role in establishing NASBLA as a national presence and in helping us *make partners on the water* as much a defining characteristic of the association back then, as it is today.

Many of you will recognize *Partners on the Water* as the theme that has come to symbolize our national initiative to gain federal funding for the states' role in maritime homeland security. It has come to be our battle cry on Capitol Hill as we have worked to raise the awareness of Congress and the Administration on the strategic force multipliers the state boating agencies have become for the U.S. Coast Guard in waterborne prevention and response capabilities in the post-9/11 era.

Although *Partners of the Water* accurately and succinctly captures the role the states are playing in maritime homeland security today, it is also indicative of the much larger, much longer multi-party partnership that has characterized the delivery of recreational boating safety programs since the late 1950s. As we delve into the history of recreational boating safety over the next few years, one of the primary watersheds in the evolution of the national program is the successful transition from the "federal" provision of on-the-water safety services to a "state" based approach to recreational boating safety.



John Fetterman  
NASBLA President



John Johnson  
NASBLA Executive Director

## Virginia BLA Honored with First PWIA Award

The Personal Watercraft Industry Association (PWIA) honored Virginia Boating Law Administrator Charlie Sledd with its 2007 Boating Safety Leadership Award.

The award was presented during the 48th Annual NASBLA Conference in Burlington, Vt. Sledd is the first to receive this new annual PWIA award that recognizes a boating law administrator who has made great strides in the boating law community throughout the year.

"This award is in appreciation for Charlie's hard work this past year to make Virginia's boating laws stronger," said Maureen Healey, executive director of PWIA. "His dedication and outstanding leadership in securing passage of a boating education requirement in the state helps keep boating one of America's greatest pastimes."

Sledd was instrumental in the passage of Virginia's new boater education law, which will be implemented in July 2008. Beginning in 2009, the first phase of younger operators will be required to pass a course. By 2012, every PWC operator will have to meet the requirement, and by 2016, every motor boater in the state will be required to be in compliance with the law.



Charlie Sledd, boating law administrator for Virginia, receives the 2007 Boating Safety Leadership Award from PWIA Executive Director Maureen Healey. Staff photo

"The personal watercraft industry has been one of our biggest champions behind boater education," said Sledd. "We share the same belief that an educated boater is a more responsible, safety conscious operator. I am very honored by the industry's recognition and look forward to continue working with them."

Sledd is also the Boating Safety Director for the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF). He holds a bachelor of science degree in biology education and a master of science in biology from Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Va. Sledd began his career with VDGIF in 1974 as a district fisheries biologist and has held a number of senior management positions. He was appointed as the Virginia Boating Law Administrator in January 2000.

## NASBLA Unveils New Committee Structure

NASBLA has implemented a new model for organizing and managing committees and getting more members involved in the committee process. First, primary committees will be organized into five key areas:

- Education and Awareness Committee
- Enforcement and Training Committee
- Engineering, Reporting and Analysis Committee
- Vessel Identification, Registration and Titling Committee
- Governmental Affairs and Administration Committee

Second, each primary committee will accomplish its charges through a series of more targeted subcommittees. For example, the Engineering, Reporting and Analysis Committee will include Accident Reporting and Analysis, Boats and Associated Equipment, and Special Risks (paddlesports, PWCs, prop strikes, etc.) subcommittees.

Finally, the committee meetings will be scheduled around other key meetings, including the International Boating and Water Safety Summit, the Spring Boating Law Administrator Workshop and the International Association of Marine Investigators Conference. The new subcommittee structure will provide numerous opportunities for members to serve in leadership roles regardless of their time with NASBLA.

## NASBLA Creates Corporate Partnership Program

NASBLA is pleased to announce the creation of a new program. The Corporate Partnership Program culminates three years of strategically looking at the organization as a whole. With the revisions to the association's mission statement and the development of the association's strategic plan now complete, the association looks toward the future and our upcoming 50th anniversary in 2009-10. NASBLA is in search of ways that we can better expand our mission and accomplish our strategic goals. One such way is by building partnerships with other like-minded organizations.

The NASBLA Corporate Sponsorship Program is a voluntary program to which any individual or organization may contribute. Multiple levels of sponsorship are available and each level brings more benefits to those involved:

- "Friend" - \$7,500 donation
- "Corporate Partner" - \$15,000 donation
- "Strategic Partner" - \$25,000 donation

If you would like to explore how you or your organization can get involved in the NASBLA Corporate Partner Program and learn about the benefits you will receive, please contact John Johnson at [john@nasbla.org](mailto:john@nasbla.org) or Gail Kulp at [gail@nasbla.org](mailto:gail@nasbla.org). ■

# Boating Professionals Benefit from Conference

By Kimberly Hermes Jenkins

Situated on Lake Champlain, Burlington, Vt., provided a distinctly scenic location for NASBLA's 48th annual conference. Held Sept. 5-10, 2007, the event drew nearly 300 attendees from around the globe. The conference provided an opportunity for boating safety and enforcement officials to discuss issues regarding recreational boating safety, connect with peers and recognize individuals for achievements made throughout the year.

While the conference did not officially begin until Friday, several meetings were held on the preceding Wednesday and Thursday, including board meetings, orientation sessions and committee briefings. Also, a daylong discussion about State Recreational Boating Safety Program Measures was held on Thursday, Sept. 6. Facilitated by Dr. Debra Gona, this session delved into the process of developing meaningful performance measures for recreational boating programs.

The conference's opening ceremonies were held the evening of Sept. 7. Rear Admiral David Pekoske served as the event's keynote speaker. He discussed partnerships and the important role they play in the Recreational Boating Safety Program and provided an update on the RBS Program. He reiterated that safety, security and stewardship are the program's three pillars. He also said that the U.S. Coast Guard will support increased funding for NASBLA during the next reauthorization of the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund. Rear Admiral Pekoske disclosed that the Coast Guard is seeking to implement a boating proficiency standard that will be linked to a boater's identification. He stressed that this will not constitute a new boater's license nor a new identification card. Rear Admiral Pekoske concluded by saying

that we, as a group, are fundamentally on the right course concerning recreational boating safety. He said we have tools within our reach – operator proficiency, personal flotation devices, and the ability to close the security gaps with regards to small vessels and to enforce security zones.

Saturday, Sept. 8, began with a NASBLA Business Meeting for electing the new Executive Board Members. The new board members are as follows:

- President - John Fetterman, Maine Department of Marine Resources
- Vice President - Richard Moore, Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission
- Treasurer - Terry West, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
- Member-at-Large - George Green, Oklahoma Highway Patrol
- Member-at-Large - Ron Jendro, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
- Member-at-Large - Jim Graybeal, Delaware Department of Natural Resources & Environmental Control
- Immediate Past President - Jeffrey S. Johnson, Alaska Department of Natural Resources



*The annual conference of the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators drew nearly 300 boating safety and enforcement officials from around the United States and the surrounding U.S. territories. The conference was held Sept. 5-10, 2007, in Burlington, Vt., which is situated on Lake Champlain. Staff photo*

Following the business meeting, the conference's general sessions began with an entertaining and eye-opening presentation from Meagan Johnson, a generational humorist. Johnson discussed generation gaps, the conflicts they can cause and ways to overcome these challenges.

After Johnson's presentation, other speakers discussed recreational boating participation, boating education, increasing the use of life jackets, and navigation rules.

Sunday, Sept. 9, began with a Working Session for the boating law administrators (BLAs). Non-BLAs had the opportunity to attend

a session about water sports. During the afternoon, several exhibitors demonstrated their products at the waterfront. Breakout sessions were also held that afternoon, covering topics such as podcasting, the new EPA boat discharge permit, carbon monoxide, paddlesports safety, and boating safety education. That evening, attendees were treated to a trip to the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, with dinner at the Basin Harbor Club.

Monday, Sept. 10, provided additional informative presentations on life jacket observation studies, crisis support for accidents and a plan for raising awareness of carbon monoxide dangers. The annual NASBLA Business Meeting was held in the afternoon. During this meeting, NASBLA members approved several action items and wrapped up the previous year's business. The conference ended that evening with the annual awards banquet.



# Association Acknowledges High-Achievers

*Each year, the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) honors outstanding individuals and groups for their contributions to recreational boating safety.*

*At its 2007 Annual Conference in September, NASBLA presented awards to several individuals. Following are brief summaries of this year's honorees.*

## President's Special Award

This year, NASBLA President Jeff Johnson selected five individuals for special recognition for their contributions this past year to boating safety and NASBLA.

He presented the 2007 President's Special Award to four non-boating law administrators who volunteered much time and shared their skills and knowledge to chair a policy committee:

- Rick Barrera, Ohio Department of Natural Resources
- Bill Engfer, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
- Gary Haupt, Missouri Water Patrol
- Betsy Woods, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency

Earlier in the year, Johnson presented Audrey Pickup of the U.S. Coast Guard with a President's Special Award. Johnson selected Pickup for the award in recognition of her 35 years of public service with the U.S. Coast Guard and her significant contributions to boating safety that have benefited most, if not all, state programs.

## Boating Safety Award

John Annino, supervisor of the Connecticut Boating Safety and Environmental Awareness Unit, received the 2007 Boating Safety Award for demonstrating outstanding performance in the recreational boating safety program. The award is sponsored by the National Safe Boating Council.

Annino began his career with the Connecticut Department of

Environmental Protection (DEP) in 1983 as a volunteer boating safety instructor. After 10 years, he began working for the Department on a seasonal basis. Annino helped implement Connecticut's mandatory safe boating and personal watercraft education programs and was hired to supervise DEP's Boating Education Unit in 1999.

Annino has dedicated his career to making others prepared to boat safely. While working for the Department of Environmental Protection, he has combined the state's basic boating and personal watercraft-handling courses and streamlined the state's equivalency exam process. In addition, he implemented the state's Master of Boating Education program and has certified 31 instructors. He initiated an educational effort aimed at teaching schoolchildren about water and boating safety and worked with the state of California to adapt its "Aqua Smart" program.

Annino has served on NASBLA's Education Committee for several years. While on the committee he also served as the Global Maritime Distress Signaling System monitor and served on a subcommittee that actively sets standards for testing and examinations nationwide.

To further improve boating safety, Annino implemented a program to encourage boaters on Long Island Sound to seek additional knowledge. Working with the United States Power Squadrons and U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, he developed a set of minimum education standards that would provide additional navigation and electronics skills to these boaters.



*John Annino, supervisor of the Connecticut Boating Safety and Environmental Awareness Unit, received the 2007 Boating Safety Award for his career-long dedication to helping others get prepared to boat safely.*  
Staff photos



*Mark Rosenker, chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, is the recipient of the 2007 NASBLA Award for his steadfast support of the boating safety programs that provide a safe and enjoyable boating environment.*

## NASBLA Award

Mark Rosenker, chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, is the recipient of the 2007 NASBLA Award for his ardent support of the boating safety programs that provide a safe and enjoyable boating environment.

Chairman Rosenker has been a strong and staunch ally of the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators' boating safety programs. Upon his appointment to the NTSB in 2003, he became the senior Board Member leading the charge for recreational boating safety improvements nationally, including the mandatory wear of life jackets by children, mandatory recreational boating safety education for all recreational boaters and safety instruction training for operators of rented personal watercraft.

Under his leadership he has advanced the recreational boating agenda in Congress through the highly visible MOST WANTED safety improvement list. He has been featured speaker at numerous boating safety events including the International Boating and Water Safety Summit and NASBLA's annual conferences. He has met with senior state officials on numerous occasions on major safety legislative initiatives. His appearance at state legislative committees is a testament to his stamina. Under his leadership, other Board Members have joined in supporting boating safety initiatives and have testified before state legislative committees.

Legislative actions completed by the states during his current tenure number about 25, addressing mandatory life jacket wear for children and mandatory boating safety education. One of his stated goals is that all 50 states have a mandatory life jacket wear requirement for children. He is close to achieving that goal, with only three states remaining to implement such legislation.

### **Bonner Award**

Bill Gossard, National Recreational Boating Program Manager with the National Transportation Safety Board, received the 2007 Bonner Award, which recognizes outstanding leadership qualities.

Gossard is responsible for overseeing the NTSB's recommendations for improving recreational boating safety. These recommendations range from reducing boating under the influence of alcohol and increasing life jacket usage by boaters to improving passenger vessel standards.



*Bill Gossard, with the National Transportation Safety Board, received the 2007 Bonner Award for his outstanding leadership qualities and tireless support of recreational boating safety programs.*

Gossard joined the NTSB in July 1977, having previously worked for the Federal Railroad Administration. With a background in rail, mass transit and hazardous materials issues, he has served under 13 NTSB chairs or acting chairs during his career with the NTSB and has been an important voice in the ears of many board members.

In 1983, Gossard drafted the NTSB's first safety study addressing recreational boating – "Recreational Boating Safety and Alcohol." Since then, he has drafted each of the agency's studies and recommendations related to boating.

Gossard has been a tireless boating safety advocate, traveling from state to state, pounding away at safety improvements year after year. He's traveled to almost every state to testify before legislatures, meet with advocates and participate in innumerable conferences.

He also serves as the NTSB's liaison with both the National Safe Boating Council and the National Water Safety Congress. He is a past Board Member of the Underwriters Laboratories Marine Council and an associate member of NASBLA.

### **Lifetime Achievement Award**

Bill Griswold, a retired captain with the U.S. Coast Guard and a current member of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, is the recipient of the 2007 NASBLA Lifetime Achievement Award for contributing to boating safety throughout his career.

Griswold completed a successful career with the U.S. Coast Guard, working his way through the ranks to serve as chief of the Office of Boating Safety from 1988 to 1989 and then as chief director of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.



*Bill Griswold, with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, received the 2007 NASBLA Lifetime Achievement Award for his unflagging support of boating safety throughout his career.*

Griswold seeks opportunities to get involved in many aspects of recreational boating safety, both at the state and national level. He remains actively involved in the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary's boating safety efforts. He has also been very active in the National Safe Boating Council (serving as president) and other boating safety organizations.

Griswold has also taken significant roles in recreational boating safety issues in his adopted state of Florida in recent years. He sought and was appointed a member of Florida's Boating Advisory Council, where he represents the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. He remains actively engaged in the wide variety of boating issues that come before the Council, and his wisdom and perspective are tremendous assets when it comes to critical decision-making and advice provided to the state of Florida through the NSBC. Griswold also solicited and was assigned to a position of State Liaison Officer for the Auxiliary in Florida.

Griswold has proven himself to be a tremendous asset to Florida, NASBLA, the U.S. Coast Guard and Auxiliary, and a long list of other boating-related organizations. He has continued his commitment to boating safety well beyond the years when it was merely his "job" – it's become his passion.

### **Life Member Award**

Brian Spillman, from Louisiana, received the 2007 Life Member Award. This award is given to former members of NASBLA who no longer serves in that capacity, either

through a change in duties, retirement or other reasons. Spillman served as Louisiana's boating law administrator from November 2004 to the summer of 2007.

### **Distinguished Life Member Award**

John Simmons, Pennsylvania, and Lucia Roberts, U.S. Virgin Islands, were recipients of the 2007 Distinguished Life Member Award in recognition of their previous service to NASBLA. This award is given to those members of NASBLA who served as a committee chairman or board member during their boating career but are no longer associated with NASBLA either through a change in duties, retirement or other reasons.

Simmons became Pennsylvania's boating law administrator in 1987. He served on NASBLA's Executive Board several years ago and worked his way up to vice president.

In 2003 he returned to fill a vacancy on the Board. Simmons retired from the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission last spring.

Lucia Roberts served as the U.S. Virgin Islands boating law administrator for 10 years. During that time she served on NASBLA's Executive Board and chaired the Waterways Management Committee. A new BLA was appointed for the Virgin Islands earlier this year when a new governor was elected. ■

from the HELM continued from page 1

We congratulate Immediate Past President Jeff Johnson (boating law administrator for Alaska) on the progress and leadership NASBLA enjoyed during his tenure at the helm last year. It's remarkable to recall that it has been less than a decade since the state of Alaska enacted legislation to create a boating safety program, making it the last state to become part of the national program and making NASBLA a bona fide 50-state association. From that point of view, it has taken the association most of its 50-year history just to become what it originally set out to be – a collective, national voice of the state boating programs. That is to say, ALL the *state* boating programs, plus the *six territories* including the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa and Guam!

When you consider that Alaska only recently added the last piece to the 50-state puzzle, when you look at the significant new funding from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund that is just now impacting the states, and when you weigh the important new organizational initiatives the association has undertaken over the last three years, it is easy to argue that there really is a *new* NASBLA in place today. But the *new* NASBLA is built solidly on the foundation of the *old* NASBLA, and it is maintaining the best of those traditions that has made the states' association a success. Among those are a commitment to working across the varied interests of the recreational

boating community and a willingness to work together to cooperatively address shared challenges.

The National RBS Strategic Plan, developed under the oversight of the National Boating Safety Advisory Council, is a great example of the kind of cooperation and partnership that has come to exemplify the recreational boating community's commitment to making boating safer. NASBLA is deeply committed to achieving the objectives of the plan, and we are proud to note that the association is listed as a primary implementing partner in as many as 55 percent of the strategies presently included in the plan. We are equally glad to report that NASBLA posted significant progress, completion or both on a number of the new RBS strategies in FY07 alone.

With NASBLA's pledge of support for the new RBS strategic plan comes a renewed commitment to our own strategic plan and to improved boater education nationwide. NASBLA has been on record in support of mandatory education for the last decade, and we will continue to champion better, more risk-based education standards that govern both the content and delivery of boater education courses. Our reorganized committee structure, with its return to five core-value areas, is itself also a response to the higher order of thinking and more focused and deliberative approach to problem solving articulated in the RBS strategic plan.

Among the other RBS strategic objectives with which NASBLA is most closely aligned are those related to improving and strengthening the capabilities of state and local maritime law enforcement. In addition to our longtime commitment to boater education, NASBLA is first and foremost an advocate for effective law enforcement on the water. Many of our current programs, particularly those related to officer training and certification, are an outgrowth of our obligation to making maritime law enforcement better. Recent statistics from the Coast Guard suggest that annual attrition rates among state and local marine officers is in a range approaching 15 percent. This high turnover in marine patrol officers presents both challenges and opportunities for many state boating agencies.

NASBLA salutes the men and women of the state and local boating law enforcement agencies for the professionalism and commitment to public service they bring to bear in the recreational boating environment every day. We are also proud to offer the Butch Potts National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award program, and we extend our heartfelt appreciation to our friends at ACR Electronics for their continued financial support of this coveted law enforcement recognition.

From all the members of the NASBLA Executive Board and the NASBLA Staff, we wish you a safe and enjoyable holiday season and a happy and prosperous new year! ■





**Boating Law Enforcement**

# **2007 OFFICER OF THE YEAR**

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

## **2007 Boating Law Enforcement Officers of the Year**

*The responsibilities of today's marine enforcement officers encompass a diversity of disciplines. Boating officers are responsible for much more than enforcing laws. They must also educate the public, save lives, facilitate wildlife conservation, protect citizens, help secure our nation, among numerous other duties. Often these officers go well beyond the call of duty. We honor these boating law enforcement officers in the following pages.*

*The National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) began awarding the Boating Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award in 2000 to recognize outstanding boating law enforcement officers. Each state selects a boating law enforcement officer. These officers then compete for one of three regional awards. The three regional officers of the year then vie for the national award. This year we had candidates from 41 states and territories nominated for this program. The officers described in the following pages represent the top boating law enforcement officers in the nation.*



Sponsored with the generous support of  
ACR Electronics Inc.

# 2007 boating officer of the year NATIONAL RECIPIENT



Corporal  
**Randy Herman**  
Clearwater County Sheriff's Department  
Idaho

*Corporal Randy Herman, with the Clearwater County (Idaho) Sheriff's Department, received the 2007 Butch Potts Boating Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award in recognition of his excellent service as a marine patrol officer. Scott Swanby with ACR Electronics Inc. presented Cpl. Herman with the award on behalf of the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators on Sept. 10, 2007. ACR Electronics is the sponsor of NASBLA's annual boating law enforcement officer of the year award program.* Staff photo

## Butch Potts Memorial Award Boating Law Enforcement Officer of the Year

Corporal Randy Herman began his career in law enforcement in 1983. Since 1991, he has functioned as the year-round marine supervisor for the Clearwater County Sheriff's Department located in Orofino, Idaho. He also serves as his county's dive team coordinator and is a strong partner for Dworshak State Park, which is located on the largest body of water in the county.

In addition to his on-the-water duties, Corporal Herman is very active in education. As a senior instructor participating in the state's annual marine law enforcement academy, he brings his broad knowledge base and years of experience to the podium. Corporal Herman is also actively involved in public boat safety education, having taught countless classes over the years.

In 1993, Corporal Herman graduated as an advanced boating accident investigator. He successfully completed the USCG Marine Patrol Officer Course in 1996. Corporal Herman is currently an active member of the International Association of Marine Investigators.

Corporal Herman was instrumental in the development of a Personal Watercraft Search and Rescue and Swift Water Rescue School. This training is conducted over a three-day period. Over 200 students have successfully completed this advanced training, and it was featured in the 2006 January/February issue of *Ride* magazine. His whitewater boat handling skills are second to none.

In 2006, Idaho suffered its first ever-documented carbon monoxide boating fatalities. Corporal Herman, aided by his years of experience and training, flawlessly led the investigation and reconstruction of this tragedy. His efforts have gained national attention and were featured on the *Early Show* and CBS News.

Corporal Herman was born and raised in Lewiston, Idaho. He and his wife, Teri live in Orofino and have two daughters. He is active in the community and volunteers as a golf coach for the local high school. Recreational boating safety has become a way of life for Corporal Herman. His knowledge, integrity and attention to detail have set the standards for all officers.

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



## ACR Electronics Sponsors Annual National Boating Officer Award

More than 10,000 people owe their lives to ACR Electronics Inc. Based in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., ACR designs and manufactures a complete line of safety and survival products and accessories. Recognized as the world leader in safety and survival technologies, ACR has provided safety equipment to the aviation and marine industries, as well as to the military, since 1956.

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

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

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

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

For more information about ACR Electronics Inc., visit [www.acrelectronics.com](http://www.acrelectronics.com).



# 2007 boating officer of the year REGIONAL RECIPIENTS



Officer  
**Kevin DeFisher**  
Department of Wildlife and Parks  
**Kansas**

## NORTHERN Region Recipient

Officer Kevin DeFisher became a certified law enforcement officer in December 1996. He worked for two police departments before joining the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks in 2002. He serves as the boating enforcement specialist for his region, which includes Kansas City, Topeka, Lawrence, Manhattan and Junction City. This region also hosts the largest portion of public waters for recreational boating, including five federal reservoirs consisting of 56,000 acres of recreational water, numerous miles of navigable rivers, and a multitude of state-, county- and city-owned impoundments. Officer DeFisher diligently assists in the patrol of Kansas' busiest reservoir, Perry, a 12,600-acre impoundment located between Topeka and Kansas City.

Officer DeFisher's dedication toward boating safety paired with his previous experience has allowed him to be instrumental in the development of

the Atchison County technical rescue program. Certified as a swift water rescue technician, he has worked with the Atchison County Rescue unit since 2002 and has assisted in numerous search and rescue missions on the Missouri River.

Officer DeFisher's dedication to safety and enforcement led him to logging nearly 1100 hours on the water during the last two boating seasons. During that time he instructed 29 boating classes and programs. He also instructed others surrounding search and rescue agencies on the use of personal watercraft in water rescue situations. In the past two years he has recovered five stolen vessels and assisted in the recovery of several others. He has also reviewed 33 boating incidents, including four fatalities. Additionally, Officer DeFisher has been instrumental in coordinating specialized boating enforcement efforts with officers within his region.

## SOUTHERN Region Recipient



Corporal  
**Bill G. Bridges**  
Game and Fish Commission  
**Arkansas**

Wildlife Officer Bill G. Bridges began his employment with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission in the summer of 1972. The next spring, he was assigned to Garland County, which hosts three large recreational impoundments, seven smaller lakes and two rivers. With this much water and boating activity within his assigned district, Officer Bridges is continuously involved in boating and boating-related activities.

Aside from his many other required duties and responsibilities as a wildlife officer, Bridges devotes several hundred hours annually to boating enforcement and promoting safer boating. Officer Bridges presents a very visible presence on the District's waterways and actively promotes boating safety. Corporal Bridges initiates water patrols regularly as well as actively participates in boating saturations on weekends and all major holidays during the boating season to ensure increased boating law compliance and safer operation.

Corporal Bridges actively promotes the "Keep our Kids Safe" program, which was originally

developed in Arkansas by the officers of District A3. The program rewards children who wear their personal flotation devices. This program educates the younger boaters as well as their parents to the importance of wearing a personal flotation device. An excellent side benefit of the program is the positive image it gives the officers in the public's eyes.

Corporal Bridges continues to stress the need for public awareness, boating education and enhanced enforcement and works closely with the judges and prosecutors to stress the importance of boating law compliance and ensure an informed judicial review. During 2006, he devoted 625 hours to the enforcement of state and federal boating laws. He maintains a strong boating caseload with many written warnings and a 100 percent conviction rate in court. He also works closely with other agencies to enhance interagency cooperation and communication as well as to provide a comprehensive and cooperative effort in all aspects of boating enforcement.



# 2007 boating officer of the year NORTHERN STATE RECIPIENTS



Conservation  
Enforcement Officer  
**Bill Myers**  
Environmental  
Conservation Police  
Connecticut

In 2006 Conservation Enforcement Officer Bill Myers of the State Environmental Conservation Police handled 49 boating incidents. These incidents included the investigation of two boating accidents and 21 arrests and eleven written warnings for violations of boating laws and regulations.

On August 6, 2006 while conducting a boating safety patrol on Pickerel Lake in the town of Colchester, Officer Myers observed a personal watercraft that was not displaying any registration or decal. The officer followed the operator to his dock on the lake where he observed a second PWC and a 20' powerboat moored at the dock – neither of which was displaying registration or a decal. Upon further inspection Officer Myers discovered that the hull identification numbers on all three vessels and the vehicle identification numbers on three boat trailers nearby had been obliterated, removed or altered. Officer Myers conducted a lengthy and extensive investigation and confirmed that all three vessels and the boat trailers were stolen. He obtained an arrest warrant and arrested the suspect March 3, 2007. The suspect was charged with three counts of Mutilated or Removed Vehicle Identification Numbers and two counts of Mooring an Unregistered Vessel. The stolen vessels and trailers were all seized and subsequently returned to their rightful owners.

Officer Myers is dedicated to the enforcement of boating laws and regulations and has extensive knowledge of boating laws and regulations. He demonstrates the ability to operate all types of patrol vessels on various rivers and lakes and presents a very professional demeanor during his interactions with the boating public.



Fish & Wildlife  
Agent IV  
**Sgt. John G. Webb**  
Fish & Wildlife  
Enforcement  
Delaware

Sgt. John Webb has performed outstanding service to the Division and the state of Delaware in numerous facets of recreational boating, including enforcement, search and rescue, operating under the influence (OUI) enforcement, accident investigation and partnership.

In 2006 Sgt. Webb organized and led special operations targeting recreational boaters operating negligently and under the influence of alcohol. These operations resulted in impaired operators being removed from Delaware's waterways before causing any injury or damage. Sgt. Webb also successfully prosecuted and convicted four of the grossly impaired operators for violations of Delaware's OUI law.

Sgt. Webb investigated several serious boating accidents, some of which resulted in fatalities as well as property damage. His initial response to and subsequent documentation of one fatal boating accident led to charges of negligent operation against the vessel's owner. In another investigation, which focused on an alleged boat jacking, Sgt. Webb's coordination resulted in the boat's owner being arrested and charged with insurance fraud, negligent operation and filing a false report.

Sgt. Webb's quick response to a boater on a sinking boat prevented not only the loss of life but also loss of the vessel and fuel spills associated with such incidents. Sgt. Webb pulled the boat operator on board his patrol boat and arranged for his transport to the hospital. He was then able to coordinate the de-watering and removal of the damaged vessel from the waterway.



Sergeant  
**Brett Scroggins**  
Department of  
Natural Resources  
Illinois

Sgt. Brett Scroggins has demonstrated very effective leadership skills in Illinois' Recreational Boating Safety Program. He was promoted to sergeant of Region II District 2 in 2002 – one of the largest and busiest districts in the state. Additionally, ten of his 11 officers had less than two years' experience when he was promoted.

Sgt. Scroggins has successfully managed and supervised the state's busiest body of water. He has made boating enforcement a priority in his district and is very involved with enforcement throughout his district. Throughout the summer he works side-by-side with his officers on patrol.

In 2006, his district achieved an unprecedented 73 OUI arrests during the period from Memorial Day to Labor Day. His district led the state in OUI arrests and boating enforcement citations with 405. Sgt. Scroggins accomplished this while having to supervise the largest district in the state in addition to simultaneously supervising the Illinois Department of Natural Resources law enforcement efforts at some of the state's busiest land sites.

As an active member of the Illinois Conservation Police Recreational Boating Safety Committee, Sgt. Scroggins has played a significant role in the development of the Illinois Conservation Police recreational boating enforcement curriculum. He serves as an instructor for this curriculum, which is taught to new conservation police officers. He also helped develop a mini academy curriculum that is used to instruct outside law enforcement agencies.



Conservation Officer  
**Ed Bollman**  
Department of  
Natural Resources  
Indiana

Officer Ed Bollman has been an Indiana Conservation Officer since 2003 and has a multiple-county assignment in east-central Indiana. He is a well-rounded officer that not only puts forth a great deal of effort with education and enforcement but also assists the public when needed.

Aside from understanding the importance of educating the public about boating safety, Officer Bollman also recognizes the necessity to further his and his fellow officers' knowledge through training. He has attended the NASBLA Boat Accident Investigation training and became a certified boat accident investigator. He later utilized this training to instruct a class of Indiana Conservation Officer recruits on boat accident reconstruction. Officer Ed Bollman is also very knowledgeable of Indiana's boating laws, and he actively participated with the instruction of the recruits on boating laws, boating while intoxicated detection, and boat emergency operations.

From April to September, Officer Bollman spends a great deal of time patrolling for boating violations on the reservoirs, lakes and rivers. While on patrol, he enforces a wide variety of violations and strives to make the waters of Indiana safer. In 2006, Officer Bollman led all boating enforcement actions in District Four with 117 citations and 60 warnings. With his proactive enforcement actions, he arrested eight subjects for boating while intoxicated and assisted officers with other BWIs. On separate occurrences, Officer Bollman also located and arrested seven minors that were consuming alcohol while boating.

Officer Bollman works well with the local prosecutor's office and is an advocate for improving boating laws to achieve better conviction rates for all officers in the state. With one boating law in particular, Officer Bollman worked with the Indiana Boating Law Administrator to correct the wording and take the appropriate steps necessary to improve the law.



Conservation Officer  
**Tom Campbell**  
Department of  
Natural Resources  
Iowa

Conservation Officer Tom Campbell has been the resident BWI expert for his district and has helped with all of the BWI special enforcement projects in the district for the past several years. He has made many suggestions to Iowa's boating law administrator on paperwork modifications and changes for BWI prosecutions and has attended meetings to discuss these changes. Officer Campbell has made 13 BWI cases in the past three years. In addition, he charged one person with assaulting a peace officer after a BWI arrest in 2006. Because of Officer Campbell's active pursuit in BWI arrests and other alcohol-related violations, the public has changed their behavior and more boaters are using designated drivers in his territory.

Officer Campbell has been in charge of the seasonal Water Patrol Office (WPO) and patrol boat at Fairport. In 2006, he had 308 navigation contacts and worked with WPO Henderson 31 times. Campbell is a very dedicated officer when dealing with navigation issues and working with the water patrol officers to make them comfortable and competent while working on the Mississippi river. In the summer of 2006, he presented a program on commercial fishing to the river water patrol officers so that they would be aware of the requirements of the anglers and what to look for during routine checks.



Warden  
**Jason Luce**  
Department of Inland  
Fisheries and Wildlife  
Maine

Warden Jason Luce is responsible for one of the busiest boating districts in the state of Maine. Sebago Lake and the many smaller lakes that surround it attract boaters from Maine as well as from around the entire United States and Canada.

In the summer of 2006, Warden Luce conducted nearly 200 on-water hours of boating patrol and enforcement. He addresses violations as appropriate and as a critical component of maintaining safety and civility on what is sometimes referred to as a "city on water" – Sebago Lake in the summer.

Luce has been a state game warden for eight years. His experience as a boating officer, however, far exceeds his time in service. In his career, Warden Luce has been the primary investigator on five boating fatalities and three serious personal injury incidents. He maintains an excellent working relationship with the Cumberland County District Attorney's Office and demonstrates a high percentage of successful boating violation prosecutions. This includes the successful manslaughter conviction in a fatal boating incident.

Warden Luce is a graduate of the U.S. Coast Guard Marine Patrol Officer instructor's course. Based on his experience and formal training, Warden Luce teaches boating safety and boat accident investigation to warden cadets at the Maine Game Warden School, the Portland Water District Safety Patrol, and other public groups interested in boating safety.

Warden Luce maintains a strong working relationship with Caso Fire and Rescue, Naples Marine Patrol, Frye Island Police Department and other public service entities in the greater Sebago region, including the Lake Region Water Safety Association.

# 2007 boating officer of the year NORTHERN STATE RECIPIENTS



Environmental Police  
Officer  
**Matthew Bass**  
Executive Office of  
Environmental Affairs  
Massachusetts

Officer Matthew Bass has consistently excelled in the area of boating safety enforcement. He logged more than 170 hours during the 2006 boating season on boating issues. These activities included search and rescue, accident investigations, education, court case work, and training other officers in field sobriety testing.

Officer Bass has independently organized late-night operating under the influence (OUI) operations with the Woods Hole and Sandwich Coast Guard stations. He is also the go-to man in his region for information related to OUI cases.



Conservation Officer  
**Tyler Quandt**  
Department of  
Natural Resources  
Minnesota

Conservation Officer Tyler Quandt is stationed at Red Wing along the Mississippi River in the southeast corner of the state. This station boasts the busiest lock and dam on the river, in addition to miles of backwaters and Lake Pepin. Recreational boating and fishing are heavy year-round due to the open water on the river. Officer Quandt takes boating safety very seriously. His attitude and approach to the job is to prevent accidents from happening.

Every year he assists the Goodhue County Sheriff's Water Patrol with boat accident investigation or recovery operations. He also works closely with his Wisconsin counterparts across the river. Officer Quandt approaches the job by aggressively seeking opportunities to inform and educate the public he serves on all aspects of boat and water safety. He even-handedly administers enforcement action when other avenues to achieve compliance fail.

Officer Quandt uses an effective approach to enforcement on the river, employing non-directed and routine patrol, organized work details, contacts

at access points and specific event-based efforts. Off the water, he works the information and education component by reaching out to user groups to be pro-active.

Work details are one of Quandt's specialties. Every year he organizes numerous details with many officers to work late winter/early spring fishing in the area. Officers go over safety equipment on board watercraft, issue warnings and citations as appropriate and remind boaters of safe operating procedures. In 2006 Officer Quandt organized, participated in or led 42 work details.

Officer Quandt is involved in all safety classes taught in his station. Along with teaching the laws, he works with instructors to take the kids into the pool for hands-on PFD and life-saving training. In addition, he meets with these officers regularly along with the local police department personnel and Wisconsin Conservation Wardens to discuss safety awareness, education and enforcement.



Director of Maritime  
Services  
**Harry Acker**  
Town of Huntington  
New York

The relentless efforts of Harry Acker, director of Maritime Services for the Town of Huntington, have contributed significantly to New York's overall boating safety on the waters in and around the North Shore of Long Island, one of the most heavily populated boating communities in the country.

Since 1974, Director Acker has worked in a variety of capacities for the Town of Huntington, all related to marine law enforcement within the Department of Maritime Services. He has also played a key role in helping to train his fellow marine law enforcement officers. He has been assisting State Parks as a lead instructor in their Marine Patrol Vessel Operator Course, which trains officers in proper boat handling, during both regular patrol and in emergencies. Director Acker has also been a leader in sponsoring additional Vessel Operator Courses at a Town marina in an effort to meet the training needs of the extremely active and large Long Island law enforcement community.

Since 1998, Director Acker has helped teach the New York Safe Boating program to more than 300 young adults, helping ensure the boating education of tomorrow's boaters. By combining education with law enforcement efforts, the waters under Director Acker's command have an exceptional record of safety and recreational opportunity.



Game Warden  
**Ken Skuza**  
Game & Fish  
Department  
North Dakota

Game Warden Ken Skuza is a 13-year veteran of the North Dakota Game and Fish Department. Previously he was stationed in the northwest part of the state where he was responsible for boat safety activities on Lake Darling and other small lakes. He is currently responsible for boat safety enforcement activities on over 100 miles of Lake Sakakawea, one of the largest reservoirs on the Missouri River, as well as numerous smaller lakes in his district.

Warden Skuza often works with other officers but is also very comfortable working solo boat patrols. Besides making numerous arrests each year, he is more than willing to assist other officers with enforcing boating laws and conducting investigations including boat crashes in other districts. He routinely volunteers to assist with boat safety enforcement duties outside of his district in other areas of the state.

Warden Skuza continues to work closely with other agencies such as the Fish and Wildlife Service, the local Sheriff's Office and the area's Drug Task Force in enforcing all laws. He routinely makes more drug arrests while doing boat safety work than any other officer in the state. He has taken it upon himself to keep current on the trends drug users employ to keep from being detected. In this way Officer Skuza helps these other agencies meet their missions and at the same time is an outstanding asset to the state's boat safety enforcement efforts. His devotion to the job has certainly made the lakes in North Dakota a safer place to enjoy the outdoors.





Watercraft Officer  
**Jeffrey S. Baker**  
Department of  
Natural Resources  
Ohio

Watercraft Officer Jeffrey Baker is a 10-year veteran with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Watercraft. His service during the Hurricane Katrina emergency is indicative of his dedication to service to the Division of Watercraft. Officer Baker, along with a group of 24 ODNR officers and supervisors were deployed to New Orleans to assist in search and evacuation efforts for storm victims, answering a call from the Emergency Management Assistance Compact from the Louisiana Department of Fish and Wildlife. This marked the first time in history that the Division of Watercraft officers were requested and responded to service outside Ohio.

Officer Baker is always willing to put forth extra effort to get the job done and he is diligent about getting it done right. A team player, he continually demonstrates self-discipline and self-motivation. Common sense, logical decision-making and confidence are apparent in Officer Baker's strong work ethic and his continual ability to respond to natural disasters. He does not hesitate to put his own life in peril to help others while answering the call to duty. He has never turned down an opportunity to serve when needed and is constantly adjusting his schedule to meet the public and Division needs.

Officer Baker is an excellent communicator. He has tact and diplomacy, communicating with clear and accurate information. He always communicates with respect and dignity, treating all fairly and equally.



Waterways  
Conservation Officer  
**Edward K. Stuart**  
Fish and Boat  
Commission  
Pennsylvania

Waterways Conservation Officer Edward K. Stuart began his career with the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission in 2004 and was assigned to the Central Erie County enforcement district the following year. This assignment had him heavily involved in boating activities on Presque Isle Bay and the open waters of Lake Erie.

During the 2006 boating season, WCO Stuart responded to a call for assistance regarding a collision between a powerboat and a personal watercraft. He was able to retrieve and transport one of the victims to waiting emergency services, unfortunately this rescue turned into a double fatal boat accident investigation and reconstruction. WCO Stuart also assisted with the investigation of two other boat accidents with three fatalities, four minor boat accident investigations and stopped the possible sexual assault of a juvenile onboard a sailboat.

During WCO Stuart's 150-plus hours of patrol on Presque Isle Bay, he succeeded in apprehending and prosecuting three boating under the influence cases and issued more than 100 citations and 400 warnings for violations dealing with the Fish & Boat Code.

The metro area of the City of Erie provides a large base of upcoming boating enthusiasts. This prompted WCO Stuart to instruct two Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission "Basic Boating" courses in the local community. He also maintained outreach to the local community by attending local sportsman's club and marina meetings to keep the public updated about the agency.



Environmental  
Police Officer  
**Gilbert Andrade**  
Department of  
Environmental  
Management  
Rhode Island

Environmental Police Officer Gilbert Andrade joined the Department of Environmental Management rather late in life. However, at age 42 he won the award for Most Physically Fit in his graduating class from the Rhode Island Municipal Police Academy. The dedication that led to this degree of physical conditioning has carried over into Officer Andrade's work habits. His work ethic has often been described as "relentless."

Officer Andrade leaves no stone unturned in any aspect of law enforcement, but he is known especially for his thorough boat boardings. He detects many violations in his inspections and most notably has led the charge in requiring many of the state's Coast Guard-documented vessels to be registered with the state. Officer Andrade is a tireless worker and generates so much paperwork due to his numerous arrests that it is not uncommon for officers to find him in a field office on his days off completing the resulting paperwork.

# 2007 boating officer of the year NORTHERN STATE RECIPIENTS



Wildlife Conservation  
Officer  
**Bob Losco**  
Game, Fish & Parks  
South Dakota

Conservation Officer Bob Losco's duty station is Day County, located in the northeastern corner of South Dakota. Day County contains some of the premier fishing and boating waters in the state. Angler harvest of walleye has been outstanding on several of the lakes in Officer Losco's work district and compliance checks take a large portion of his work hours. It is not an exaggeration to say that anglers travel to Day County from all over South Dakota, surrounding states and beyond. However, in spite of other work demands Officer Losco still finds time to conduct boating safety compliance checks. In 2006, he conducted 252 boat inspections.

During Officer Losco's time in Day County, he has been involved in several rescue missions to help stranded boaters. In November 2006 he assisted with an emergency rescue of a deer hunter that had broken through the ice on Waubay Lake. The officer took his boat across the icy waters and provided emergency rescue assistance. Without his assistance this individual may not have been saved.

Losco is also a Wildlife Training Officer (WTO) for the Department of Game, Fish & Parks. He was actively involved in the development of a new training program for conservation officer trainees. Officer Losco has a lot to offer the department's new officers. Last year he helped provide training for regional officers on checking boaters and anglers. He created training scenarios that helped the officers put classroom training into action in the field.



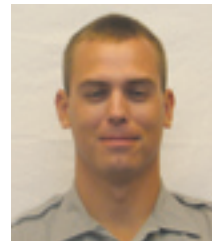
State Game Warden  
**Daniel Swainback**  
Agency of Natural  
Resources  
Vermont

Sgt. Daniel Swainback has been stationed on the northernmost reaches of Lake Champlain since 1985. His area of responsibility, bordered by New York and the province of Quebec, encompasses a majority of the inland sea, including all of Missisquoi Bay, the Richelieu River area, the Missisquoi and Rock rivers.

Due to the diversity of the area, Sgt. Swainback has maintained working relationships with all agencies on the lake, such as the Vermont State Police, U.S. Border Patrol, U.S. Coast Guard, New York Environmental Police, Clinton County (N.Y.) Sheriff's Office, the Grand Isle (Vt.) Sheriff's Officer, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Quebec Wildlife officers, and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Sharing his knowledge of the lake with these agencies facilitates efficient and effective response to boating-related accidents and search and rescue missions on the lake. Additionally, Swainback's risk assessment credibility makes him a key element of any mission.

Sgt. Swainback has taken the initiative to train all new Vermont Fish & Wildlife officers in boating safety and boating enforcement. His professionalism in this training is infectious – the trainees leave with a respect for the water and the knowledge to educate others in boating safety.

Throughout his career, Sgt. Swainback has been the leader in Vermont in the enforcement of boating safety laws, through both citations and warnings issued. Sgt. Swainback's dedication to the enforcement of boating laws goes far deeper than issuing a citation – he goes out of his way to reach boaters about safety. Compliance with regard to boating safety laws has increased dramatically, demonstrated by the increased use of life jackets, lack of wake violations and increased awareness in safety.



Warden  
**Casey Krueger**  
Department of  
Natural Resources  
Wisconsin

Warden Casey Krueger has done an outstanding job for the boating enforcement program in Columbia County and for the South Central Region of Wisconsin. He has been a fixture on Lake Wisconsin and is well known by the boaters on both the lake and the Wisconsin River.

The most active boating law enforcement officer in the Poynette Team, Warden Krueger made 63 boating arrests in 2006. These arrests were diverse in nature, including eight intoxicated boating arrests as well as arrests for non-registration, operating at night without the required lights, personal watercraft violations, excessive noise, permitting underage operators, and operation in a prohibited area. He also investigated or assisted in investigating three separate boating accidents in 2006.

In 2002, Warden Krueger received the department's Life Saving Award for his effort in pulling a potential drowning victim from the waters of Lake Delton. Two canoeists capsized their vessel. Warden Krueger, assisted by Deputy Warden Brett Noordhoff, immediately responded and pulled both boaters from the water. The boaters had been wearing life jackets but had put them on improperly, and one life jacket was too small. When they capsized, one of the life jackets almost came completely off while the other could not support the other individual.

Warden Krueger has been heavily involved in the PWC Law Enforcement Loaner program. He devoted a great deal of time to working with area marinas on the loaner agreement and securing watercraft for use by the wardens in the region.

Warden Krueger has developed an excellent partnership with the Grade Boat Club, the established lake association for Lake Wisconsin. In 2006, he worked with the boat club to get a "No Aquaplaning" ordinance passed in the narrows of the Wisconsin River. Previously he had succeeded in getting a slow-no-wake area on the river. These two efforts have improved the safety in and around Lake Wisconsin.

# 2007 boating officer of the year SOUTHERN STATE RECIPIENTS



Sergeant  
**Ronald Harris**  
Marine Police  
Alabama

Sgt. Ronald Harris is a 19-year veteran with the Alabama Marine Police. In addition to being an exemplary officer in the field, Sgt. Harris assists with the training of new recruits, instructing them in everything from law enforcement and accident investigation to boat operation. Sgt. Harris is also very active in his community. He teaches several boating safety courses to the public. In short, Sgt. Harris is a very well-rounded officer, valuing education, partnerships with other organizations and enforcement of the law equally.

On May 21, 2006, Sgt. Harris stopped a boat on Lake Harding for a safety inspection. After completing the stop and issuing a citation for an equipment violation, Sgt. Harris observed the boat leave the scene and strike the wake of a passing boat. The impact with the wake caused the boat to overturn, throwing both the operator and his passenger into the water.

Reacting quickly, Sgt. Harris expertly maneuvered his patrol boat to a position where he could assist the victims. After throwing a life preserver to the operator, the officer noticed that the passenger was having a difficult time swimming and was rapidly becoming exhausted. Although Sgt. Harris threw the passenger a life jacket, the boater was unable to use it due to her exhaustion. Fearing the worst, Sgt. Harris maneuvered the boat alongside the passenger where he was able to reach her and help her safely board his boat. Once he had both victims on board, Sgt. Harris recovered their boat and towed it to the landing.

For Sgt. Harris, incidents such as this one are simply part of the job. However, it's evident that his bravery, quick thinking and expert skills averted a tragedy on that day.



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

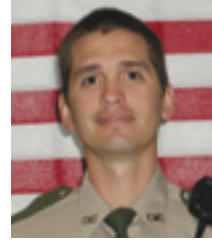
Officer David Nutter has been a police officer for nearly 17 years. He's been assigned to the Harbor Patrol Unit for the past six years.

During his time at Harbor Patrol, Officer Nutter has been a motivated, dedicated officer. He is the consummate team player and enlists the help of his fellow officers when necessary to complete a given task. He also makes himself available day and night to help others when needed. During emergency calls, Officer Nutter is usually the first officer on the scene.

During 2006, Officer Nutter continued to display his motivation and pride for his job. He conducted 168 onboard safety inspections, issued 148 citations for safety violations and issued 41 citations for registration requirement violations. In addition, he participated in numerous dive operations, recovering evidence, property and two bodies. A certified Police Rescue Diver, Officer Nutter led all divers in underwater hours.

In June 2006, during a flash flood, Officer Nutter braved contaminated flooded streets and rescued numerous citizens who were stranded in or atop their vehicles in downtown Washington. In December 2006, Officer Nutter was awarded the Metropolitan Police Department Life Saving Award for saving the lives of two individuals who had fallen overboard into the frigid Potomac River during the annual Parade of Lights.

Officer Nutter is an integral part of the Harbor Patrol. He conducts himself professionally both on and off duty and maintains a strict code of ethics in all that he does. He displays an infectious and positive attitude in everything he does, no matter what the task.



Officer  
**Michael "Brad" Stanley**  
Fish and Wildlife  
Conservation  
Commission  
Florida

Officer Michael "Brad" Stanley is a leader with a solid work ethic and serves as a fine example to other officers in his work unit.

After earning a bachelor of science degree in criminology in 1999, Stanley was hired by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. In 2002 he was selected to attend the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Training Academy. After graduation, he was assigned to Indian River County in East Central Florida. Officer Stanley has served in this tough and demanding position while exhibiting the high qualities and professional image expected from an officer. He is regarded by his peers and supervisors as being an extremely capable, progressive and informed team player. His job performance reflects consistency, versatility and a strong commitment to law enforcement.

Officer Stanley is motivated and tireless in his dedicated effort to protect and preserve the state's natural resources and to ensure the safety of the public. He possesses a great deal of initiative and adapts well to changing seasons, locations and environments. His versatility in both the inland and marine environment is demonstrated by his diverse caseload, which has included numerous arrests for boating under the influence and other boating safety violations.

During 2006, Officer Stanley contacted 2,654 boaters and conducted 571 vessel inspections, documenting 163 citations and 325 written warnings. He also accepted additional responsibilities for training new officers as well as frequently conducting boating accident investigations and other in-depth investigations. Recently, he displayed his leadership skills as an acting area supervisor. During a major boating accident involving a fatality, Officer Stanley successfully coordinated manpower and equipment during a search and recovery and delegated all tasks to various personnel with ease and without hesitation.



# 2007 boating officer of the year SOUTHERN STATE RECIPIENTS



Lieutenant Ranger  
First Class  
**Mitchell Oliver**  
Department of  
Natural Resources  
Georgia

RFC Mitchell Oliver is a dedicated officer who strives to keep the waterways of his state as safe as possible through enforcement, education and by hands-on efforts.

RFC Oliver continually makes himself available to help other officers with accident reconstructions, search and rescue missions, stolen boat investigations and other incidents around the state. In 2006 he logged 518 boating safety hours, covering 6760 boating safety miles. He checked 132 vessels, made 111 contacts, recovered three stolen vessels, performed 20 hull identification checks, worked two boating incidents and successfully prosecuted six boating under the influence cases.

Dedicated to boating safety, when encountering the public RFC Oliver tends to gain voluntary compliance rather than rely solely on issuing citations. He performed four boating safety programs – two for the Safe Kids Coalition and two events in which he fitted and gave away life jackets to 35 children. Officer Stanley also arranged for life jackets to be donated to his section for officers to hand out while on patrol. He has taken extra measures, such as grant writing, to help keep the public safe. For example, he co-authored a grant for \$5000 to request more life jackets to distribute to boaters.



Conservation  
Officer II  
**Glenn Kitchen**  
Department of Fish &  
Wildlife Resources  
Kentucky

Conservation Officer Glenn Kitchen works the Cave Run Lake area of the Daniel Boone National Forest. This 8500-acre lake has the highest activity level in the district. In 2006, Officer Kitchen issued 143 citations for 190 charges, including 45 boating enforcement charges and 38 alcohol-related charges. Fifty-three of these citations were issued in July alone. Officer Kitchen also made 13 arrests, conducted 827 license checks and inspected 303 vessels during the year.

Officer Kitchen helped develop the Emergency Vessel Operations Course (EVOC) for the Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources. This is a Kentucky Law Enforcement Council-certified course. In addition, he constantly strives to improve the course through better training, information and equipment. He attended the Inland Boat Operations Training course at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Glynco, Ga., to further his information and experience in boat safety and operations. He will incorporate this training into the EVOC to help the department as well as boaters.

During normal patrol situations, Cave Run Lake is patrolled by at least three, and often four, officers. However, due to manpower shortages due to illness or other circumstances, Officer Kitchen often patrolled the lake by himself in 2006.

During the year, Officer Kitchen assisted various boaters, saving their lives. In one instance, he located a sinking pontoon with two women and two children on board. The vessel had taken on enough water inside the pontoons that the motor was submerged. Relocating the children and one of the adults to his patrol vessel, Officer Kitchen towed the sinking vessel to a boat ramp where it was loaded on a trailer.



Senior Agent  
**Joe Arnaud**  
Department of  
Wildlife and Fisheries  
Louisiana

Agent Arnaud wrote the highest number of boating safety citations in the state of Louisiana for 2006. He is very professional in his enforcement of boating safety laws and represents the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Division with pride and dedication.

Agent Arnaud has attended several boating safety schools and recently graduated from the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center's Marine Law Enforcement Training Program. He has also been trained in boating accident reconstruction and boating accident investigation and is well versed in boating operations and marine law enforcement and BUI enforcement.

Agent Arnaud participated in several search and rescue operations in local waters in 2006, during which he helped to rescue several lost and stranded boaters. Because of his intimate knowledge of the New Orleans area, Agent Arnaud was tasked with leading rescue teams by boat during the evacuation of New Orleans and surrounding areas during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Agent Arnaud does a good job of educating the public about boating safety regulations during his many public appearances through out the district. He is always available both on duty and off to meet with civic groups and school classes and discuss boating safety topics.

Consistently leading his region in BUI cases, Agent Arnaud has been one of the top five agents statewide in this area. His knowledge in this area has proven to be a valuable training tool for younger agents or agents not as familiar in this aspect of marine law enforcement.

Agent Arnaud has handled with great success some very complicated boating accident investigations. He has always made himself available to other agents who find themselves bogged down with their own investigations. Along with investigation, he strives to prevent accidents by identifying careless and reckless boat operators before an accident can occur.



Corporal  
**Michael D. Leishear**  
Department of  
Natural Resources  
Maryland

Cpl. Michael D. Leishear is an eight-year veteran of the Natural Resources Police. Considered an excellent officer by his superiors, Cpl. Leishear is acclaimed for his thorough familiarity of the activity in his assigned patrol area and his proficiency in navigation and boat handling skills.

Knowledgeable and dedicated, Cpl. Leishear addresses conservation, recreational boating and homeland security issues quickly and efficiently. He also maintains an outstanding professional relationship with allied agencies. His aggressive patrol philosophy and exceptional professional qualifications contribute to his success and recognition in recreational boating safety, conservation and general criminal law enforcement.



Master Officer  
**Richard Tucker**  
Wildlife Resources  
Commission  
North Carolina

Master Officer Richard Tucker's job performance is a reflection of his knowledge of boating safety and his dedication to the enforcement of boating laws. In 2006, he spent 207 hours on boating patrol enforcement, 53 of which were night boating hours. Of the 591 vessels he inspected, the officer issued 155 citations and warning tickets for boating violations. Officer Tucker continually affirms his commitment to being a team player by assisting other officers. He also volunteers every year to travel to other areas in the state to assist with special boating enforcement operations.

The emphasis Officer Tucker places on the detection of impaired boat operators resulted in more than 100 boating while impaired arrests during the past eight years. The rate of conviction for these arrests was 100 percent. In 2006, Officer Tucker made eight boating while impaired arrests and issued 23 other citations

for violations consisting of underage drinking and possession of controlled substances. His enforcement efforts have drastically reduced impaired operation of vessels on the lakes in his area.

Officer Tucker takes every opportunity to make a positive contact with the public, especially with children. He frequently illustrates this by not only issuing citations for children not wearing life jackets but also by explaining the importance of wearing personal flotation devices. He created an hour-long video on boating education and safety equipment regulations to educate the citizens in his area. He also disseminated boating safety information through the instruction of Boating Safety Certification courses and gave 22 programs to the public. Each year he takes the initiative and responsibility for ordering boating safety materials and handouts to aid in the promotion of a boating safety campaign.



Corporal  
**Ron Winegard**  
Department of  
Natural Resources  
South Carolina

Cpl. Ron Winegard is an officer who truly understands the importance of boating safety. He is always ready and willing to give boating safety presentations and courtesy boat inspections when the opportunity arises. He has the distinct ability to communicate well with the general public and displays this ability when working boating patrols.

Cpl. Winegard is assigned to Pickens County and spent many hours patrolling Jocassee, Keowee and Hartwell lakes. During the 2006 boating season he spent 233 hours patrolling these lakes, resulting in 1,127 boat inspections and 85 summons and 150 warnings for boating violations. Cpl. Winegard investigated several boating accidents and assisted with several others. He coordinates with the local sheriff's and police departments to work saturation patrols and special events. He regularly attends training courses to improve his abilities.

## *How to Nominate a Boating Officer*

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

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

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

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

# 2007 boating officer of the year SOUTHERN STATE RECIPIENTS



Boating Officer  
**Matt Brian**  
Wildlife Resources  
Agency  
Tennessee

Officer Matt Brian is assigned to Area 21, which encompasses 10 counties and includes Nashville, the state's top metropolitan area. The area also includes Old Hickory and Percy Priest reservoirs, listed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as the number five and number seven, respectively, most visited bodies of water in the nation. This area is extremely popular for recreational boating.

Officer Brian's performance in 2006 proved to be an outstanding service to the state of Tennessee. His law enforcement work indicates his superior dedication to enforcing boating safety laws, rules and regulations. He checked 1,598 vessels, issued 99 court citations for boating violations plus 22 warnings. While on boating patrol he also inspected 983 anglers, 146 hunters and 108 access areas that resulted in 97 court citations and 16 warning citations. He performed 28 field sobriety tasks on Tennessee boaters, which led to nine boating under the influence arrests.

Officer Brian is dedicated to teaching boaters about safety. In 2006 he taught boating safety at Ft. Campbell, Ky., to 101st Airborne soldiers. He provides educational materials to local marinas, boating supply stores and schools. He spoke about boating safety to 100 students in three schools and 250 persons at a civic organization. He participated in a job shadow program in which he mentored a local student. Officer Brian also monitored two boating certification exams.



Game Warden  
**James Barge**  
Parks & Wildlife  
Department  
Texas

Game Warden James Barge has worked for the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department for nearly 10 years. He is stationed in Angelina County, which includes Sam Rayburn Lake, one of the largest lakes in Texas at approximately 114,000 acres, as well as the Neches and Angelina Rivers. Warden Barge also routinely patrols Lake Livingston.

Warden Barge has developed a reputation of being one of the best at detecting intoxicated operators. He has developed knowledge in the Penal Code, Code of Criminal Procedure, Texas Water Safety Act and other State and Federal Statutes that is far superior to most. He has either made or been instrumental in approximately 60 boating while intoxicated (BWI) arrests in his career. Because of his success, Warden Barge has been utilized by his supervisors to train both new and veteran officers in all aspects of BWI enforcement. He has developed a very strong relationship with the prosecutors that he works with and, as a result, has a very high conviction rate on the water safety and BWI cases he files.

Officer Barge is actively involved in his community. He lends his time to teaching youngsters in the importance of water safety, taking a boater education course and wearing a life jacket. He routinely leads the District in the number of public programs that he presents each year.

His dedication to his job has led to Officer Barge's involvement on the agency's Critical Incident Management Team. He is one of only a handful of the state's 500+ game wardens who has received specialized training in this area. He was recently summoned to the El Campo area to assist with debriefing and counseling duties surrounding the tragic shooting death of a fellow game warden. His involvement as deacon in his church and his caring attitude make him a perfect match for this type of work.



Senior Officer  
**James H. Hale**  
Department of Game  
and Inland Fisheries  
Virginia

Senior Officer James H. Hale has rapidly become one of the most productive and effective boating law enforcement officers within the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF) Law Enforcement Division.

A four-year veteran of the DGIF, Officer Hale brought eight years' previous experience as a sheriff's deputy and police officer with him to his current role. Officer Hale is extremely effective at locating and apprehending persons who abuse alcohol on Virginia waterways. In 2006 alone, Officer Hale arrested 10 persons for operating motorboats while under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Also during 2006, Officer Hale investigated seven boating crashes and provided over 300 hours of boating safety education to citizens in his area.

During the 2005 and 2006 boating seasons, Officer Hale volunteered to work overtime on a state Selective Enforcement grant. He alone voluntarily worked over 250 hours of overtime patrolling Kerr Reservoir and Lake Gaston looking for persons who were boating under the influence. Not only were intoxicated operators found and arrested but these efforts on his days off helped ensure safer waterways for all of Virginia's citizens.

Aside from his enforcement duties, Officer Hale is instrumental in educating DGIF officers, as well as officers from other agencies, in various areas of boating law enforcement. In addition, Officer Hale is one of only two agency RADAR instructors in the entire state. On extremely short notice, Officer Hale was given the responsibility of developing the lesson plans and coordinating RADAR training for the entire law enforcement division.

Officer James Hale is one of those special "do it all" officers who serves as a model for others. While consistently leading his district in arrests, he also leads in educational hours and numbers of safety presentations provided for our citizens, from children to adults. He constantly strives to refine and hone his skills.



## 2007 boating officer of the year WESTERN STATE RECIPIENTS



Trooper  
**Marc Cloward**  
Department of  
Public Safety  
Alaska

Trooper Marc Cloward is the lone Alaska Wildlife Trooper assigned to the Seward Post on the Kenai Peninsula. He has worked in this division for nine years. His patrol area extends over 2500 square miles. Much of this area is marine coastline, which includes Resurrection Bay and a sizeable portion of the North Gulf Coast of Alaska, in addition to numerous freshwater streams, rivers and lakes.

In 2006 Trp. Cloward did an outstanding job enforcing boating safety laws within his area and around the state. His tireless efforts resulted in over 100 hours of dedicated boating safety patrols contacting hundreds and hundreds of recreational users.

Seward has a large recreational fishing fleet and a bustling sport fish charter fleet. Trp. Cloward has worked closely with the local users to ensure they comply with Alaska's boating safety laws. He participated in joint enforcement efforts (BEST TEAM's) with the U.S. Coast Guard personnel. Trooper Cloward recently attended the Alaska Waterwise Instructor Course and is now a certified boating safety instructor. He conducted on-water enforcement and dockside inspections to educate and gain compliance.

In May 2006, a boating fatality accident occurred at mile 17 of the Deshka River near Wasilla, Alaska. The accident involved two airboats that collided head on, resulting in two fatalities and five injuries. Due to the remote location, it took two days to remove the wreckage of both vessels. Trp. Cloward assisted in the accident reconstruction. Having just completed NASBLA's boating accident reconstruction course at the beginning of the year, Trp. Cloward provided a detailed report of the accident. The primary case investigator and the detachment supervisor both wrote letters thanking Trp. Cloward for his investigative efforts and ability to provide a complete investigation report after much of the accident scene had been disturbed.



Sergeant  
**Wayne Lupinski**  
Maricopa County  
Sheriff's Office  
Arizona

For over 23 years, Sgt. Lupinski has been providing the citizens of Maricopa County with exceptional boating enforcement, investigations and related services.

In 1984, then Deputy Wayne Lupinski was assigned to the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office Lake Patrol Division at Bartlett Lake. Realizing a need for a quicker medical response to injured boaters and others using the recreation areas in this then desolate area, he took the initiative to become a state-certified medical technician and later a state-certified/national-registered paramedic. While assigned to Bartlett Lake, Lupinski took numerous courses to enhance his abilities as a boating enforcement officer.

In 1990, as a member of the Lake Patrol Division, Sgt. Lupinski also served as medical coordinator. In this role, he was responsible for implementing a Basic Emergency Medical Technician training program, which trained Lake Patrol deputies – who are responsible for boating law enforcement – as EMTs. Sgt. Lupinski opened this training to other agencies in the area. This allows for much quicker treatment and assessment of injuries to the boating and water recreation using communities.

In 2005, Sgt. Lupinski was involved in a corroborative effort with a local judge to educate the public and OUI offenders on the disastrous effects of operating watercraft while under the influence. This partnership produced a video titled "Operating Under the Influence: Navigating Disaster." The video details the tragic effects that can occur when boating while under the influence.

Sgt. Lupinski's latest endeavor is establishing a partnership with doctors at Good Samaritan Hospital in Arizona to educate the public and study the effects of carbon monoxide on local lakes. This study will be used to identify carbon monoxide levels of boating enforcement personnel and the boating public.



Sergeant  
**Charlie Slabaugh**  
Sacramento County  
Sheriff's Marine  
Enforcement Detail  
California

Sergeant Charlie Slabaugh was assigned to Sacramento County Sheriff's Marine Enforcement Detail in January 2000. His prior experience in the U.S. Coast Guard and as a recreational boater encouraged him to make his detail a more professional organization. He encouraged and provided training beyond current levels, incorporating a training program into the detail's operational plan. This included in-house training in small boat handling, navigation, firefighting and suppression, trailering, and basic seamanship. He also took it upon himself to improve his skills by studying boating and related laws, acquiring his U.S. Coast Guard License as a U.S. Merchant Marine Officer.

Sacramento County Sheriff's Marine Enforcement Detail was one of the first in the state to utilize personal watercraft (PWCs) on a regular patrol basis and later encouraged other agencies to participate in the PWC law loaner program. Sgt. Slabaugh was an advisor to the Department of Boating and Waterways PWC Education programs for the public and law enforcement agencies.

Sgt. Slabaugh initiated Boating Under the Influence Checkpoints in Sacramento County in 2002. These checkpoints were conducted using local allied agencies in the area. Sgt. Slabaugh shared the operational outlines with other agencies, encouraging them to conduct their own checkpoints. Since 2002, his detail's checkpoints have expanded and brought together many organizations to participate and learn how to conduct a checkpoint.

Sgt. Slabaugh's commitment to boating safety has not been based entirely in the law enforcement arena. He has received numerous letters of appreciation and recognition from several agencies and organizations for his efforts in promoting water safety at schools, businesses and other organizations. An example of this is since 2000, he has provided continued support and participation to the Sacramento Metro Fire Department's Fire Camp, Water Safety Day, for the youth of our community.

# 2007 boating officer of the year WESTERN STATE RECIPIENTS



Warden  
**Kevin Holland**  
Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
Montana

Warden Kevin Holland coordinated the huge effort to produce the "Boating Under the Influence: It's Your Choice" educational video in 2006. This was a joint effort between Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks and (FWP) several other cooperators, including Carbon and Yellowstone County Sheriff's Offices, local EMS, Life Flight, a mortuary, the local news station and others. This major effort resulted in not only a great 17-minute public service announcement but also an excellent training video. Warden Holland also traveled to the International Boating & Water Safety Summit held in Texas to present a training curriculum he developed revolving around the video.

Warden Holland has been the FWP representative to the Yellowstone County DUI Task Force for more than three years. FWP was invited to join the task force because of the groundwork Holland laid by his boating enforcement efforts, as well as his obvious willingness to work with other agencies.

Warden Holland has taken the regional lead in developing equipment to improve the officers' effectiveness in water safety enforcement. He has put extensive effort into reworking a surplus jet boat into a craft that can be utilized on the river during times the normal jets are inoperable. His maintenance on all the regional equipment, including the water equipment, has been a huge asset during a time of regional turnover.



Game Warden  
**Richard Booker**  
Department  
of Wildlife  
Nevada

For the past five years, Game Warden Richard Booker has worked for the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW). His primary area of responsibility is Lake Mead, one of the Southwest's busiest recreational reservoirs. Before coming to NDOW, Booker retired from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with 28 years of service as a park ranger.

During his time at NDOW, Warden Booker has repeatedly demonstrated his commitment to law enforcement and boating education. His willingness to educate boaters, while still enforcing state boating laws, has earned him the respect of his peers as well as boaters on Lake Mead.

Working on Lake Mead, one of the harshest and busiest working environments for marine officers, doesn't seem to faze Warden Booker. He approaches each day with enthusiasm and determination to make the lake a safer place to boat and play. He routinely displays a calm demeanor and patience with boaters. He is always eager to educate them on Nevada boating laws and regulations, a challenging task when one considers the large number of out-of-state boaters. The common excuse, "well it's not like that in my state," is heard all too often. Even though Warden Booker is willing to give boaters a second chance, he doesn't sacrifice safety and ranks near the top of all game wardens for citations written and Type IV flotation devices handed out to boaters. His first instinct is to educate boaters.

Search and rescue operations are common for boating enforcement officers, but Warden Booker never takes a report lightly. He gives his best effort on every occurrence. He also performs numerous boater assists each year. These may entail anything from a simple request for directions to a boat tow that may require a lengthy time commitment.



Police Sergeant  
& Boating Safety  
Section Commander  
**George DLC Barcinas**  
Department of  
Public Safety, Boating  
Safety Section  
Northern Mariana  
Islands

Since he was assigned to the Boating Safety Section in 1998, Sergeant George DLC Barcinas has displayed a positive interest, commitment, dedication and motivation in the delivery of boating safety campaigns and programs to ensure that the boating community enjoy the waters of the commonwealth safely.

With his current task of serving as commander for the Rota Department of Public Safety, Boating Safety Section, he is also tasked to monitor and enforce boating safety activities as well as provide coverage and assistance to the 14 islands in the Mariana Islands archipelago. These tasks and assignments require a lot of commitment and dedication to the job.

Sgt. Barcinas guided his Boating Safety Officers to accomplish numerous tasks for the year 2006 by performing the following boating activities for the island of Rota:

1. Performed over 100 hours of marine patrol.
2. Performed 103 marine/shore patrols.
3. Responded to 106 distress calls.
4. Performed 30 boater assists.
5. Responded to 3 hazardous material incidents.
6. Conducted 251 boating assistance for marine events.
7. Assisted in the response, recovery and search & rescue operations of 138 boating incidents.

Sgt. Barcinas regularly assists other state government agencies such as the Coastal Resource Management Office, Division of Fish & Game, Commonwealth Ports Authority and the Division of Environmental Quality in their enforcement efforts. He has also developed a working partnership between his boating agency and the U.S. Coast Guard, Federal Bureau of Investigation and the U.S. Department of Defense.

Even with the hectic schedule and responsibility of Sergeant Barcinas, he and his unit found time to develop an outreach program for the community, specifically boat operators, on safe boating practices expected from boat operators. This educational campaign was launched to reinforce as well as develop a cadre of advocates with respect to safe boating in the commonwealth.



Deputy  
**Steve Dangler**  
Multnomah County  
Sheriff's Office  
Oregon

Steve Dangler is an excellent deputy and is committed to doing his best at all times. His performance is above that of the average deputy. Deputy Dangler maintains some of the highest statistics across the state for arrests, citations and hours of contribution in the Marine Unit. His attitude, willingness to learn and team player mentality are just a few of his positive attributes.

In 2006, Deputy Dangler worked 1,651 hours, 766 of which were boat hours. He issued 189 citations and 831 warnings, made or assisted in 24 arrests, and completed 788 boat examination reports. He was also involved with 56 vessel assists, 3 boating under the influence cases, 13 search and recovery incidents, 32 rescues and 12 accident investigations.

Deputy Dangler assists his unit's Search and Rescue group by serving as its liaison as well as a coordinator. He is on call and responds to incidents year-round. Additionally, he is a stellar field training officer, instructing, developing and serving as a role model for new hires.

Deputy Dangler put forth extra effort when he assisted a homeless person who was living in an old boat, in the middle of the river, in extreme conditions. The homeless person had been on the water for over a year, suffering from depression and schizophrenia. Deputy Dangler arranged for temporary housing, Social Security benefits and mental therapy for the person.

Committed to ridding the waters of theft and burglary, Deputy Dangler has been working on a very large theft case for several months. The case involved theft of property, burglaries and abandoned boats. He has made 10 arrests and issued 14 criminal citations in the case.



Park Manager  
**Rick Redmon**  
State Parks &  
Recreation  
Utah

Rick Redmon is responsible for Deer Creek State Park and Strawberry Reservoir. Even as a park manager, he is very involved in law enforcement activities at these reservoirs and surrounding areas. He always takes care of business with great professionalism and sound judgment.

On July 19, 2006, Deer Creek experienced a terrible storm that left six vessels beached, stranded or missing. Redmon used "boating rescue triage" and, starting with the most critical, worked back to the beached boats. He received a call from Dispatch that two boats were stranded on the island. The water was very rough with six-foot waves. Just as Redmon arrived at the island and made a quick check on the boaters, Dispatch reported that there was a small fishing boat missing near the Charleston day use area. Since the stranded boaters were safe, he left to check on the missing fisherman. The missing fisherman was soon located walking down the highway. Luckily his small boat had been beached instead of swamped. Redmon returned to the Island and transported the stranded boaters – several children and two adults – to the marina dock. No one was injured and no vessels were lost during the onslaught.

Boating safety is very important to Redmon. On one occasion, he was in the middle of conducting interviews for a vacant ranger position, when he noticed a small aluminum fishing boat at the dock. He excused himself from the interview to verify that the two men and two small children had life jackets. He found that only the children had life jackets, which were very old. Redmon told them they could not launch until they had proper life jackets for each person. Since storms appear very suddenly at Deer Creek, he wanted to ensure that the boaters were properly equipped.



Lieutenant  
**Peter Cropp**  
Pierce County  
Sheriff's Office  
Washington

Peter Cropp joined the Pierce County Sheriff's Office in 1986. He became a member of the department's Marine Services Unit two years later and worked his way from deputy to lieutenant. He gives a full-time effort to the part-time job of the Marine Services Unit. In addition to his work around the water, his primary duties are as a lieutenant with the Sheriff's Office main patrol force.

Lt. Cropp became an instructor for Washington's Basic Marine Law Enforcement training academy in 1993 and is now a senior instructor with the program. His attention to quality presentations and his professional approach to training material assignments have distinguished him from other instructors. He has formal education experience as a teacher and his experience as a marine patrol officer provide him with an ability to instruct at a level that quickly helps new marine patrol officers understand the challenges of enforcing state regulations.

Lt. Cropp gives boating safety talks to various community groups. He developed two key presentations in 2006. Working with other agencies is essential for a full-service marine unit. In 2006 Lt. Cropp was instrumental in organizing a marine services meeting between all the county's law enforcement and fire department agencies that play a role in marine enforcement and response. This resulted in an increased level of awareness by government personnel who now share information and capabilities for services and response on the county's waterways.



Officer  
**Jon Stephens**  
Game & Fish  
Department  
Wyoming

Jon Stephens has been employed with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department for two years as a law enforcement officer. In that short time he has excelled in the field of watercraft law enforcement and in promoting watercraft safety.

Stephens began his career as a wildlife technician in the Casper Region in July 2004. His primary duty from April to August was watercraft law enforcement and promoting watercraft safety. In September 2006 he was promoted to a game warden trainee in Cheyenne.

Officer Stephens was a key individual in the Casper Region's watercraft law enforcement efforts in 2006. Having different law enforcement partners in 2005 and 2006, he took the lead in training his new partner in 2006 in watercraft law enforcement techniques.

One new issue with which Officer Stephens had to contend was the increasing amount of recreational watercraft and float toy use on the North Platte River through Casper. He took a proactive approach to the new and increasing problems and conflicts to inform the public of the safety concerns and laws of river watercraft use.

The 519 hours Officer Stephens spent on the water last year has been time well spent, as he was one of the department's top producers in documenting watercraft and fishing violations. In 2006 he performed 122 watercraft and 35 fishing law enforcement actions as well as several boating under the influence arrests and accident investigations.

In addition to his patrol activities, Officer Stephens was actively involved in providing watercraft and water-related education programs to the public last year. This included a watercraft safety display at the EXPO and Casper Outdoor Show, holding several watercraft inspection and safety days, conducting a watercraft safety media day, and working with the city of Casper on safety concerns due to the increased use of recreational users on the North Platte River.



# Communicating the Importance of Reporting Accidents

## *A Positive Spin Can Make a Positive Impact*

By Jeff Ludwig, U.S. Coast Guard, Regulatory Development Coordinator

Imagine you're a moderately experienced boater out on the water one summer weekend, enjoying an afternoon cruise with a few good friends. All of a sudden, you accidentally collide with an unknown object beneath the surface, and one of your passengers is abruptly thrown overboard. Fortunately, she was wearing her life jacket and you were able to retrieve her uninjured within a matter of moments, but your boat sustained considerable damage. In the end, you're embarrassed, frustrated and worried that you may have been going too fast.

Now ask yourself this: What's the incentive at this point to file a report when you just want to put the whole ordeal behind you and get on with your summer?

### **Making the Message Count**

The type of hesitancy described above has undoubtedly affected the number of boating accident reports filed each year – an important action that helps the U.S. Coast Guard and states to better pinpoint safety vulnerabilities and opportunities.

That's why we must all make a concerted effort to put ourselves in the shoes of the average boater when developing messages about these valuable forms. In so doing, there are two main points to keep in mind.

First, many boaters worry that by submitting a form (report), they could face legal action. As boating safety advocates, we need to communicate that the Federal Boating Accident Report Form is intended for statistical purposes only. The information contained within cannot be used in court proceedings.

*Note: Not all states use the Federal Boating Accident Report Form. Many have their own form with different legal applicability. Laws vary from state to state.*

Second, many boaters see no real incentive in submitting the form, viewing it as a waste of time. It is our responsibility to convince

boaters that there IS a point to reporting an accident – even if it's a small accident. Boaters need to understand that when unacceptable levels of negative outcomes (i.e. deaths, injuries, property damage) occur, we are mandated to take appropriate action at the federal level to ensure the public's safety. The more specific information we have, the better we can target educational and outreach initiatives.

### **We're All In It Together**

We all know boaters have a powerful sense of community on the water. We look out for each other night and day. It's that sense of community that can ultimately help to spread the word about the importance of submitting accident report forms, providing the context that can make a difference.

The overall message is, "If you could possibly prevent the same type of accident from happening to a fellow boater by contributing a report form that ultimately helps to guide educational efforts, why wouldn't you?"

Over the past several years, the U.S. Coast Guard has taken similar approaches with messages concerning life jacket wear and Boating Under the Influence (BUI). Gone are the days of imposing "just do it" messages. With life jackets, recent campaigns have focused on modern, user-friendly designs, actually addressing boaters' concerns about discomfort and other issues. And with BUI, efforts have focused more on realistic consequences concerning insurance, etc. rather than rigid commands or scare tactics.

As we all know, both the quantity and quality of information are key to any initiative designed to protect boaters. When it comes to accident reporting, let's make sure that we prioritize both on our waterways.

*The U.S. Coast Guard reminds all boaters, "You're in Command. Boat Responsibly!" For more information, visit [www.USCGboating.org](http://www.USCGboating.org). ■*

## **Refresher – Accident Reports**

In 33 CFR 173.55 it states that the operator of a vessel shall submit the casualty or accident report prescribed in 33 CFR 173.57 to the reporting authority where the accident occurred when, as a result of an occurrence that involves the vessel or its equipment:

- A person dies;
- A person is injured and requires medical treatment beyond first aid;
- Damage to vessels and other property totals \$2,000 or more or there is a complete loss of any vessel;
- A person disappears from the vessel under circumstances that indicate death or injury.

A report required by 33 CFR 173.55 must be made:

- Within 48 hours of the occurrence if a person dies within 24 hours of the occurrence;
- Within 48 hours of the occurrence if a person is injured and requires medical treatment beyond first aid, or disappears from a vessel; and
- Within 10 days of the occurrence if an earlier report is not required under this section.

When the operator cannot submit the report, the owner shall.

## Coast Guard Celebrates Its Rescue of 1 Million Lives

The United States Coast Guard (USCG) has saved more than 1 million lives since its founding more than 200 years ago.

During a ceremony held August 4 in Grand Haven, Mich., in honor of its 217th birthday, the USCG announced that 1,109,310 lives have been saved since its establishment in 1790.

“When things are at their worst, America’s Coast Guard is at its best,” Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff said in a released statement. “What began as a revenue enforcement agency with a fleet of 10 cutters established by Alexander Hamilton more than 200 years ago has evolved into the world’s premier multi-mission, maritime and military service.”

The Coast Guard is one of America’s five armed forces and traces its founding to Aug. 4, 1790, when the first Congress authorized the construction of 10 vessels to enforce tariff and trade laws, prevent smuggling and protect the collection of the federal revenue.

Responsibilities added over the years included humanitarian duties such as aiding mariners in distress. The service received its present name in 1915 when the Revenue Cutter Service merged with the U.S. Life-Saving Service to form a single maritime service dedicated to saving life at sea and enforcing the nation’s maritime laws.

The number of lives saved was calculated by the Coast Guard historian’s office through research of logs and records from the Coast Guard, the Revenue Cutter Service, the U.S. Life-Saving Service, the Lighthouse Service and other agencies that ultimately became the modern Coast Guard.

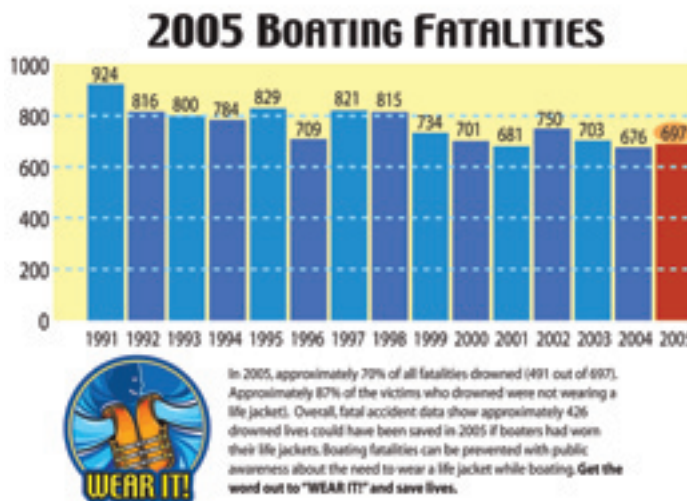
## Recreational Boating Sees Increase in Fatalities, Injuries

*U.S. Coast Guard Releases 2006 Statistics Report*

The number of boating fatalities increased for the second year in a row in 2006, according to published reports by the U.S. Coast Guard Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety.

The *2006 Recreational Boating Statistics Report* shows that there were 710 boating-related deaths in 2006, compared to 697 in 2005. The number of injuries also increased to 3,474 last year from 3,451 in 2005.

Two-thirds of all fatal boating accident victims drowned. Of those, 90 percent were not wearing their life jackets. Eight out of every 10 boaters who drowned were using boats less than 20 feet in length.



Also, consistent with previous years, 70 percent of reported fatalities occurred on boats where the operator had not received boating safety instruction. The report states that operator inattention, carelessness/reckless operation, excessive speed, and failure to maintain a proper lookout are the primary contributing factors in all reported accidents.

Of significant note, nearly twice as many children drowned in 2006 (15) compared to 2005 (8). And, there was a definitive increase in the number of reported fatalities

associated with canoes/kayaks (99) when compared to 2005 (78). And despite the progress being made against driving under the influence, alcohol use is the leading contributing factor in fatal boating accidents, accounting for nearly 20 percent of all reported accidents.

For decades, the Coast Guard has been collecting and analyzing data on boating accidents and safety compliance derived from accident reports filed by the owners/operators of recreational vessels involved in accidents.

This year’s 48th annual report was released the earliest in 14 years and is the result of a coordinated effort involving the Coast Guard, all 50 states, the five U.S. territories of Guam, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, as well as the District of Columbia.

It is generally accepted that boating has become a much safer activity since the Recreational Boating Safety Program began in 1971. Specifically, experts have estimated that more than 33,000 lives have been saved over those three and a half decades as a direct result of policies and programs put in place by the U.S. Coast Guard, state boating agencies and boating safety organizations. That’s encouraging.

However, the Coast Guard advises that there is much more to be done in the boating safety advocacy arena. Over 77 million boaters make boating one of America’s most

popular pastimes, and although this year's Report indicated a two-percent drop in boat registrations (resulting in 200,000 fewer boats on America's waterways), the popularity of this sport will remain strong. Thus, boaters will remain vulnerable to injury, particularly if they are not taking the necessary precautions to avoid accidents, as well as protect themselves in the event of an accident.

The complete 2006 Boating Statistics report is available at [www.uscgboating.org/statistics/Boating\\_Statistics\\_2006.pdf](http://www.uscgboating.org/statistics/Boating_Statistics_2006.pdf).

### **Life Jackets Save Lives**

This summer, one Nevada family learned firsthand the value of life jackets.

The Killinger family of Las Vegas was rescued by game wardens after their boat capsized in Lake Mead on August 19 during rough weather. The family was attempting to rescue boaters from another vessel in distress. All passengers from both vessels were rescued without incident because they were all wearing life jackets, according to game wardens on the scene.

"The outcome could have been very different if the occupants had not been wearing life jackets, especially the couple's four-year-old son and infant daughter," said Game Warden Karen Welden, the officer primarily responsible for the rescue.

"I can't say enough about Officer Welden," said Addison Killinger, 42, from Las Vegas. Welden rescued Madison Killinger, who celebrated her first birthday in October, during the incident. Ironically, Welden had outfitted the infant with a properly fitting life jacket just weeks before during a routine boat stop. It was the jacket Madison was wearing during the rescue.

In fact, several in the Killinger family recently received new life jackets from Welden during a routine safety check when the officer found that some of their life jackets did not fit properly or were too confusing to put on.

"We are extremely thankful to have received those life jackets. Without them the kids would have been in big trouble," said Addison.

Nevada law requires all boat operators to have an easily accessible and wearable life jacket on board for each passenger. Beginning October 1, 2007, Nevada's law changed to raise the age requirement for children to wear life jackets. Under the new law, all children 12 years or younger are required to wear a life jacket of the proper size while the boat is underway.

"This is an important change in the law," said Edwin Lyngar, boating education coordinator with the Nevada Department of Wildlife. "Kids are the most vulnerable people during a boat accident, and if we can get these young people in serviceable, properly fitting life jackets, we will have fewer getting killed on our waterways every year. Boat accidents involving children are always the most difficult for the families, our officers and anyone involved."

### **Florida Sees Spike in Boat Theft**

Boat thefts in Florida are up 30 percent this year, compared to the same period of last year, reported the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission on Oct. 1, 2007.

More than 1,200 boats have been reported stolen in Florida this year, according to FWC, which highlighted a growing trend in theft of "go-fast" type boats.

"Go-fast boats, 26-39 feet long, are being targeted with greater frequency than in previous years," said Lt. John Humphreys of FWC's Investigations Section. "These boats are targeted by criminals because of their high-dollar value and for use in maritime-based smuggling activities."

FWC is making its officers' boating industry experience and knowledge available to law enforcement partners and private industry through active partnerships with the Florida Marine Intelligence Unit (FMIU) and through several other marine intelligence-sharing initiatives, the group reported.

"FWC provides investigative coordination and intelligence analysis support to a myriad of sheriff's offices and police departments around the state. We offer everything from assistance with identifying boats and suspects to predicting future theft trends," Humphreys said. "Investigations can quickly become highly complex and involve not only grand theft, but also violations such as title fraud, insurance fraud, larceny, alteration of hull identification numbers and tax evasion," Humphreys added.

"Boat theft is big business and a growing trend in Florida," said Capt. David Bullard of FWC's Investigations Section. "Frequently, boat thefts are linked to larger issues, such as organized crime, illegal immigration and domestic security threats. Because of this, it's essential to work with federal and local law enforcement agencies to combat the problem."

"Protecting Florida's boaters and waterways is vital to FWC's mission," said FWC Commission Chairman Rodney Barreto. "It's critically important that Florida's vast boating community take precautions to avoid becoming victims of these crimes."



## Propeller Guards Not Required on Recreational Houseboats

The U.S. Coast Guard decided that propeller guards will not be required on all recreational houseboats.

The Coast Guard posted its decision in the Oct. 18 Federal Register. It was based on the conclusion that boater education would be more effective at reducing propeller injuries.

"The Coast Guard originally proposed this rule as a first step that would eventually consider requirements for propeller guards or avoidance measures on all propeller driven boats," said John McKnight, director of environmental and safety compliance for the National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA).

NMMA, working closely with the Small Business Administration, found that safety education and labeling provided a more effective way to reduce propeller-related accidents, according to McKnight.

In the Federal Register, the Coast Guard noted characteristics of the safety measures proposed and said the original cost estimate of \$300 per installation on each houseboat was not realistic.

NMMA says studies revealed the average cost per boat would be about \$1,500, with an estimated total price tag of \$150 million to implement the proposal. What's more, the \$150 million Coast Guard estimate did not factor in additional costs related to maintenance or the resulting decrease in fuel efficiency on prop guard-installed vessels.

## Event Raises \$21K to Help Wounded Soldiers, Sailors

For the second year in a row, Congressional staffers, federal workers and lobbyists gathered to support wounded soldiers and sailors recovering in local hospitals. Hosted by the National Marine Manufacturer Association (NMMA), the 2007 Rock the Dock event raised \$21,400 to benefit

Team River Runner, an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization that provides health and healing through whitewater boating to armed forces service members recuperating at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., and the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md.

"NMMA is very proud to support such a good cause and we're thrilled to be able to present Team River Runner \$6,200 more than last year," said Thom Dammrich, NMMA president.

Soldiers, sailors and pilots injured in the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq are sent to the Walter Reed and Bethesda hospitals for treatment and extensive rehabilitation. Since 2004, Team River Runner has helped wounded soldiers, sailors, disabled veterans and their family members in the service members' recuperative process from injuries sustained in Afghanistan and Iraq through kayaking in indoor pools and river outings.

Rock the Dock, in its second year, is part of NMMA's effort to support community outreach by the boating industry. Team River Runner is a 501(c)(3) organization and all contributions are tax-deductible. For more information on Rock the Dock, or to find out how you can contribute through the NMMA, contact Bryan Zumwalt at [bzumwalt@nmma.org](mailto:bzumwalt@nmma.org) or 202.737.9764.



*Officer Richard Browning received a citation from Governor Donald L. Carcieri for providing lifesaving assistance to a boater while both were on boats 130 miles offshore one night. Photo courtesy Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management*

## Rhode Island Officer Saves Boater

Richard Browning, an Environmental Protection Police Officer with the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, was recently recognized for his efforts in saving a boater.

Officer Browning, who was off-duty at the time, was on board a sport fishing boat with friends when they heard and responded to a distress call from another boat. Dave Preble, the captain of the other boat, had been stricken with a severe allergic reaction to peanuts. Officer Browning had the skipper of the boat he was on maneuver in close and, in rough seas, he leapt from his boat to the boat with the stricken boater.

The officer performed first aid and put out a call for any boat with allergy medicine, which he obtained and administered to the victim. He also contacted the U.S. Coast Guard for help. Officer Browning then hoisted the semi-conscious victim onto his boat, from which he was able to assist the Coast Guard in getting Preble up into the Coast Guard helicopter. From there Preble was taken to a hospital. Doctors told Preble that after his two-hour ordeal, he had been within 15 minutes of dying.

## Mustang Survival Marks 40 Years of Saving Lives

Mustang Survival, industry leading manufacturer of personal flotation devices (PFDs), survival suits and other lifesaving apparel, recently marked its 40th anniversary. Since 1967, when founder Irv Davies invented the first Floater Coat and started the flotation revolution, the company has continued to build on its reputation as a world leader

in research, design and innovation by developing innovative products for the most demanding users.

“From the very beginning, innovation and our employees have been the keys to our success,” said Bob Askew, chief executive officer for Mustang Survival. “Everyone at Mustang is committed to our guiding philosophy of saving lives for a living and producing top quality flotation and hypothermia protection products.”

From its early roots, with a handful of employees in a small facility, Mustang Survival has grown to have more than 400 employees in the United States and Canada with manufacturing facilities in Elizabeth, W.Va. and Richmond, B.C. as well as offices in Bellingham, Wash.

As part of its commitment to the water safety community, Mustang Survival has partnered with organizations including the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators, National Safe Boating Council, the BoatU.S. Foundation

for Boating Safety & Clean Water, United States Power Squadrons and the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and many more to educate and promote safe enjoyment of the water.

According to Frank Leffelaar, Marketing Services manager, “working with these outstanding organizations, we are able to inform people about the wide range of personal flotation devices available so they can stay safe doing what they love to do on and around the water.”

### **iDrive Boats Introduces Boating Safety Program**

Lake Alfred, Fla.-based iDrive Boats has officially launched its boating safety program.

iDrive Boats recently joined the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators as an associate member and introduced its “boating education made simple” philosophy during the association’s annual conference, which was held in Vermont in September.

iDrive offers product-specific training for new and existing boaters to learn more about their craft’s unique features as well as receive certification. The company is working with numerous states to mesh its online and on-site dealer programs within each state. With more than 47 states requiring some level of mandatory boating education, iDrive is positioned to facilitate online and personal, on-site training at its approved education facilities.

In addition to its appeal to the general boating public, iDrive is working with select manufacturers to produce branded content and safety programs for owners of new boats. MasterCraft Boat Co., of Vonore, Tenn., recently signed with the company.



*The Mustang Survival Rescue Stick™ has been recognized as an innovative safety device for recreational boating. Photo courtesy Mustang Survival*

### **Mustang Survival Rescue Stick™ Wins Safety Innovation Award**

The Mustang Survival Rescue Stick™ was recognized with the Innovation Award for Safety at the Marine Aftermarket Accessories Tradeshow (MAATS) held July 18-20, 2007, in Las Vegas, Nevada. Judged by a committee from Boating Writers International, this prestigious industry award recognizes products for innovation, distinctiveness, benefit to consumers and practicality.

“We are extremely honored to receive the Innovation Award for Safety for the Rescue Stick,” said Frank Leffelaar, manager of Marketing Services for Mustang Survival. “The panel recognized its unique capability to rapidly provide more emergency flotation at longer distances than other devices on the market.”

The Rescue Stick™ is a powerful rescue tool in the hands of professionals and recreational users. Anyone who can throw a stick can throw it to someone in distress in the water. Designed to be compact (14”) and lightweight (just over 1lb), it can be easily stowed in a police car trunk or emergency rescue vehicle, on a boat, at the cabin or by the pool. When the unexpected happens it will provide emergency flotation to someone at risk of drowning and increase the likelihood of self-rescue.

For more information about the Rescue Stick™, visit [www.rescuestick.com](http://www.rescuestick.com). ■

## Coast Guard Auxiliary and Law Enforcement



Commodore Jesse L. Harrup Jr.  
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary  
National Recreational Boating  
Safety Directorate

This issue's theme is law enforcement; a somewhat difficult tasking for yours truly in that the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary is not authorized to direct LE missions. Auxiliarists are engaged by the Coast Guard primarily in operational or administrative support roles. While assigned to authorized duty to assist, to augment, or to replace Coast Guard personnel in the performance of Coast Guard duties, including while assigned as crew on Coast Guard or Auxiliary vessels, Auxiliarists shall have the same power and authority in execution of those duties as an active duty Coast Guard member assigned or previously assigned to similar duties, except Auxiliarists shall have no direct law enforcement authority.

That said, we can still assist our state partners as it affects their LE missions. What follows are some situations that hopefully will educate many state agency readers as to how we may assist our NASBLA partners when asked to be a part of a general state law enforcement mission. While Auxiliarists cannot execute direct law enforcement missions, they may support certain Coast Guard and state agency law enforcement activities. The key restriction is that no command can vest Auxiliarists with general police powers (e.g., power to search, seize or arrest) or give Auxiliarists any direct role in law enforcement police action.

For example, a CG unit commander may request an Auxiliarist employing an operational facility to provide transportation of logistics support to armed Coast Guard personnel enforcing general vessel safety laws (e.g., conducting CG-4100 boardings) where there is a low chance of detecting criminal activities. Unit commanders may also employ Auxiliarists as interpreters for boardings when language barriers exist. Auxiliary interpreters may join boarding teams on low-risk (as determined by the Operational Control (OPCON)) boardings aboard vessels to facilitate communications only after the initial safety inspection is complete and the subject vessel is deemed safe/secure.

As relating to assisting state agencies, sorties for regattas, marine parades, safety zones or pollution reporting or monitoring sufficiently

relate to promoting boating safety and protection of the marine environment so as to be considered missions not involving the exercise of direct law enforcement powers. Because the Coast Guard Auxiliary has no law enforcement authority, boaters seen participating in dangerous or illegal actions may, however, be politely advised as appropriate. These on-water patrols prevent accidents and relieve the Coast Guard and state marine agencies from having to expend precious resources for routine matters and allow more focus on law enforcement missions.

State agencies may also use Auxiliary resources for logistics support of state marine agency patrol investigations or transportation of investigators. For a law enforcement boarding, Auxiliarists are only authorized to assist law enforcement officials (Coast Guard, federal, state or local) as translators and by providing their facilities as boarding platforms. When the USCGAUX assists in such preceding missions to the states, it is recorded in our management information system as Mission #42/Govt. Support/State Agencies.

While it is clear that the Auxiliary can be a valuable partner to the states in the general mission of LE, it is important to re-emphasize though, that when working an LE mission at the request of a state agency, that such Auxiliarists are prohibited from conducting the following activities:

- Actual boarding of a boat for law enforcement purposes other than for language interpretation.
- The carrying of firearms (by hand or holster) or any related law enforcement equipment (e.g., handcuffs, pepper spray, etc.) on their person.
- Investigating complaints of negligent operations or serving of subpoenas, or
- Covert operations.

While the Auxiliary cannot perform direct law enforcement, they can, however, be the eyes and ears for the Coast Guard and other law enforcement officers when operating unilaterally, and be a valued partner in providing certain assistance efforts when working jointly in an LE mission with state agencies. ■



## Demand for Well-Trained Law Enforcement



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

When asked in various public surveys, it's common to hear the boating community tell us that they desire adequate, well-trained and capably equipped law enforcement personnel on the water. They want serious violators dealt with appropriately so that their recreational boating experience is the best that it can be. They want to know that in times of trouble, capable officers are readily available to rescue or protect them; and they want to know that the measures being considered to prevent unsafe, undesirable and especially threatening experiences consider their input prior to being implemented.

The article below addresses these issues well. Training is a key component for preparing on-the-water officers; and the Marine Patrol Officer Course (MPOC) accomplishes this thanks to the well-trained staff and the exceptional students involved in this course. Speaking of the staff, you'll be pleased to know that one of the MPOC staff has joined the Boating Safety Division. Mike Baron is now in charge of coordinating this course and our Division's other law enforcement efforts. For those of you who know him, you're aware of his ability to keep this program running smoothly and to further enhance it.

You'll also be interested in reading the article below to learn of the efforts taking place to officially validate on-the-water field sobriety tests. This is essential to maintaining the integrity of these tests when challenged in court cases, and thus helping to rid the waters of intoxicated boat operators.

Lastly, the article below addresses the National Small Vessel Security Summit held in June.

The topics of boating safety law enforcement and maritime security are important to us all. Thanks to the strong partnerships between us, the boating public in our nation can feel more and more confident in the capabilities of the officers on the water and that they will have the most fulfilling boating experience possible.

## Law Enforcement Vital to Water Safety, Security

By Joe Carro  
Boating Safety Division  
Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety  
U.S. Coast Guard

What a year! There has been a lot going on. In this issue we will cover what I believe are three of the most important projects. Each of these projects can easily stand alone. Combined, they represent a strong strategy that serves to make the recreational boating community safe and secure.

These projects include the Marine Patrol Officer Course (MPOC), the Boating Under the Influence (BUI) Standardized Field Sobriety Test Validation Study, and the National Small Vessel Security Summit.

A meeting about the Marine Patrol Officer Course was held at the U.S. Coast Guard Maritime Law Enforcement Academy (MLEA), FLETC Facility, in Charleston, S.C., this May. MLEA staff and instructors with representatives from Coast Guard Headquarters discussed all aspects of the MPOC. Topics included a review of the student feedback, curriculum review and determination of the FY 2008 class convening dates.

As always, the student feedback was informative as well as entertaining and provided a view and opinion not usually observed by the staff. Some recurring themes include "great information," "great course," "I'll be able to use all of this training at my agency," "I may not be able to use all of this at my agency," and one of our favorites... "If we could get out on the boats that would be great!" If we had boats to get out on, you're right, it would be great. For now, time conducting training on the "Dirt Fleet," the M/V Cape Chalmers, and in other simulators will continue to provide a challenge for all students.

The curriculum review, and incorporation of both student and guest instructor feedback, should help us provide a better product for students and instructors alike. The time and days some classes are given have been rescheduled to ensure students receive the most from the staff. Some class sessions have been expanded and others have been eliminated. This will help us better meet the goals and objectives of both the National RBS Program and the NASBLA

Strategic Plans. For instance, Navigation Rules scenarios have been incorporated into both the Instructor Development (MPOC-ID) and the Tactical (MPOC-T) courses.

You should have already received your MPOC information packets and student applications. If not, please feel free to contact your boating law administrator or Mike Baron. The convening dates are provided below:

- MPOC-ID Class 02-08
  - January 7-18, 2008
- MPOC-T Class 03-08
  - February 25-March 7, 2008
- MPOC-T Class 04-08
  - March 17-28, 2008

The work regarding the “Validation of Standardized Field Sobriety Tests for Use in the Marine Environment” continues. This validation study is being conducted by the Southern California Research Institute under a Coast Guard grant managed by NASBLA.

The study continues into year two of a three-year grant with analyses of Field Sobriety Test (FST) data collected from past field arrest reports. The work on developing a test battery continues with a number of tests currently undergoing evaluation. Some of these tests are familiar, for example the palm pat, finger to nose, and the finger count. Others are new and under development and analysis. (No, we are not even going to hint at what they may be). When all the tests have been refined, including laboratory work regarding administering the tests, scoring criteria, marine environment concerns addressed, we will then be at liberty to release the results.

The most important and farthest reaching implication regarding the successful development of these validated afloat FSTs will be in the fact that having the research data to confirm “validation”, officers conducting enforcement and prosecution of BUI cases will have the strongest tools possible to assist them in their enforcement efforts. Don’t be



*The Marine Patrol Officer Course is a 40-hour instruction designed to enhance the states' recreational boating safety enforcement capabilities. Photo courtesy U.S. Coast Guard*

surprised if upon validation of these tests some of you get involved with changes and modifications of your state laws regarding FSTs and testing.

And finally, here’s a note regarding the National Small Vessel Security Summit (NSVSS). Most of you have heard and some of you no doubt attended the NSVSS.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS), in partnership with the Homeland Security Institute hosted the NSVSS this past June in Crystal City, Va. Attended by approximately 300 stakeholders, this meeting was the first step in establishing a dialog between DHS and the small vessel community concerning issues to secure our ports, waterways and coastal areas.

Participants and speakers included DHS Secretary Michael Chertoff, Coast Guard Commandant Admiral Thad Allen and the Commissioner of Customs and Border Protection, W. Ralph Basham. Stakeholder agency representatives including, Richard Schwartz, BoatU.S.; Jim Muldoon, National Boating Safety Advisory Council; Cindy Squires, National Marine Manufacturers Association; LtCol. Don Holway, Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission; and John Fetterman, NASBLA President, participated in panel discussions and various breakout sessions.

Key items discussed included security risks in the U.S. maritime domain. A national forum was provided for small vessel stakeholders to discuss and present their ideas on development of security measures in small vessel management and for local government officials and private industry members to discuss transportation concerns regarding security threats and present their ideas.

The final report from this Summit will be available, including information regarding the proposal and locations for six “Regional Summits.” Keep an eye on the Small Vessel Security website for the latest information – [www.dhs.gov/xprevprot/programs/gc\\_1175627911698.shtm](http://www.dhs.gov/xprevprot/programs/gc_1175627911698.shtm). ■



Change Service Requested



## JANUARY 2008

- 7-11 **NASBLA**  
National Boating Accident Investigation  
& Analysis – Level 1 Training  
Montgomery, Alabama  
859.225.9487  
chris@nasbla.org
- 9-13 **U.S. Sailing**  
National Sailing Programs Symposium  
St. Petersburg, Florida  
401.683.0800  
www.ussailing.org
- 16-20 **National Sheriffs' Association**  
Winter Conference  
New Orleans, Louisiana  
703.836.7827  
www.sheriffs.org
- 23-26 **National Safe Boating Council**  
Executive Board Meeting  
Ft. Myers, Florida  
703.361.4294  
www.safeboatingcouncil.org
- 24-27 **U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary**  
N-TRAIN  
St. Louis, Missouri  
www.cgaux.org

## FEBRUARY 2008

- 1-2 **NASBLA**  
Vessel Identification, Registration &  
Titling Committee Meeting  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana  
859.225.9487  
ron@nasbla.org
- 3-6 **International Association of  
Marine Investigators**  
Annual Training Seminar  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana  
866.844.4264  
www.iamimarine.org
- 4-8 **NASBLA**  
National Boating Accident Investigation  
& Analysis – Level 1 Training  
Boulder City, Nevada  
859.225.9487  
chris@nasbla.org

- 4-8 **NASBLA**  
Winter Executive Board Meeting  
Location TBA  
859.225.9487  
info@nasbla.org
- 14-18 **National Marine Manufacturers Association**  
Miami International Boat Show  
Miami, Florida  
www.miamiboatshow.com
- 19-24 **United States Power Squadrons**  
Annual Meeting  
Dallas, Texas  
888.367.8777  
www.usps.org
- 25-26 **Southern States Boating Law  
Administrators Association**  
Annual Conference  
Charleston, South Carolina  
info@nasbla.org

## MARCH 2008

- 10-11 **NASBLA**  
Enforcement & Training Committee Meeting  
Lexington, Kentucky  
859.225.9487  
chris@nasbla.org
- 10-14 **NASBLA**  
National Boating Accident Investigation  
& Analysis – Level 1 Training  
Springfield, Illinois  
859.225.9487  
chris@nasbla.org
- 12-13 **NASBLA**  
Spring BLA Workshop  
Lexington, Kentucky  
859.225.9487  
info@nasbla.org
- 13-16 **US Sailing**  
Spring Meeting  
Newport, Rhode Island  
401.683.0800  
www.ussailing.org
- 14-15 **NASBLA**  
Engineering, Reporting & Analysis  
Committee Meeting  
Lexington, Kentucky  
859.225.9487  
chris@nasbla.org

- 23-26 **National Association of Conservation Law  
Enforcement Chiefs**  
Annual Meeting  
Phoenix, Arizona  
850.922.8063  
julie.jones@myfwc.com

## APRIL 2008

- 7-11 **NASBLA**  
National Boating Accident Investigation  
& Analysis – Level 1 Training  
Cleveland, Ohio  
859.225.9487  
chris@nasbla.org
- 12 **National Boating Federation**  
Spring Meeting  
Hyannis, Massachusetts  
508.394.5670
- 15-16 **NASBLA**  
Education & Awareness Committee Meeting  
San Diego, California  
859.225.9487  
gail@nasbla.org
- 16 **NASBLA**  
Waterways Management  
Subcommittee Meeting  
San Diego, California  
859.225.9487
- 16-18 **NASBLA**  
National Safe Boating Council &  
National Water Safety Congress  
International Boating and  
Water Safety Summit  
San Diego, California  
703.361.4294 or 440.209.9805
- 25-27 **National Boating Safety Advisory Council**  
Spring Meeting  
Rockland, Maine  
202.372.1061  
jeffrey.a.ludwig@uscg.mil
- 27-29 **American Boating Congress**  
Washington, D.C.  
www.nmma.org/abc