

# SCA

small craft advisory

*Unpaid help  
proves  
priceless*

**NASBLA**  
*launches  
new award*

*Kudos  
to BOAT  
program*



# SCA

small craft advisory

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

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## About the Cover

Volunteers donate an invaluable amount of time and energy to recreational boating safety programs around the world. Featured on the cover, a volunteer firefighter helps a young boy try on a life jacket at a boating safety event in California.

*California Department of Boating & Waterways photo*

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from the

# Helm



*Jim Graybeal  
NASBLA  
President*



*John Johnson  
NASBLA  
Executive Director*

## **Volunteers key to accomplishing mission**

As a career employee with a state agency, you know one thing for sure – there are never enough resources to accomplish the wide range of tasks that are before you. Your staff is spread thin and in these tough economic times, it seems the words of the day are always, “Do more with less.”

To offset the challenge of providing services to the public, volunteers have solidified their value in almost every organization across the globe. Sadly, some organizations do not view volunteers as valuable assets and do not take full advantage of their potential. But in those agencies that do, volunteers hold key roles in providing a service to the public in such areas as education, administration, trail maintenance and interpretation. Some state agencies, due to severe budget restraints, are turning over operational segments of managing their lands to volunteers organized into various friends groups.

According to the Fair Labor Standards, a volunteer is “an individual who performs hours of service for a public agency or an organization for civic, charitable, or humanitarian reasons, without promise, expectation or receipt of compensation for services rendered. (29 C.F.R. Section 553.101.)”

Volunteerism is considered an altruistic activity that increases a person’s quality of life by developing life skills,

providing leadership from past job experiences, or gaining knowledge skills and abilities for future employment with an agency. Volunteers are an invaluable resource to us, providing real economic savings allowing state governments to do considerably more with no expense or undue costs. National volunteer groups such as AmeriCorps have made a difference in allowing states to complete long overdue projects with limitless volunteer resources as long as they are treated well and the states have an infrastructure to manage them effectively.

As a member of the NASBLA Executive Board over the past five years, I have seen many different levels of volunteerism. State members (owners) play a big role in the day-to-day operation of NASBLA, with state agencies allowing their employees to work on committees, special ad hoc groups and the Executive Board. Time spent on committees and the Executive Board is not always time counted toward a member’s weekly 37.5 hours a week. Our members spend countless hours “off the clock” completing projects for the Association, volunteering their time and energy for the good of the Association. As a member (owner), I appreciate the good work and dedication of the membership showing their passion for boating safety.

Another level of volunteerism I have personally witnessed in our Association

includes the many dedicated boating safety education volunteers each state has cultivated and managed over the years. Without the good work of our volunteers, we would not be able to fulfill our mission and statutory requirements to provide boating education courses to the citizens on a national level. These volunteers provide countless hours of instruction at little or no cost to the state agency, therefore permitting the state to accomplish their mission.

In the small state of Delaware, last year we had 3,200 volunteer hours. If you value their donated time at \$20 per hour, their time would calculate out to be an additional \$64,000 of “employee time” annually. In these economic times, can any agency add \$64,000 to a salary line for additional employees? In today’s economy with dwindling state budgets and ever-changing priorities, our volunteers are truly a valued asset. Without them, our jobs would not be possible and certainly not manageable.

This issue of *Small Craft Advisory* is dedicated to the passion and spirit performed by our cadre of volunteers that has made this Association what it is today – the leader in national policy development, setting standards of excellence through training and education. We appreciate their willingness to exceed our expectations doing whatever it takes to get the job done. I encourage each state to make use of our volunteers as a valued resource in the future.\*



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\*For full details visit [www.BOATERexam.com/award](http://www.BOATERexam.com/award)

# NASBLA NEWS



*NASBLA President Jim Graybeal signs the Strategic Plan of the National Recreational Boating Safety Program for 2012-16.*

## **Boating, water safety groups on board with new strategic plan for boating safety**

NASBLA President Jim Graybeal joined representatives of 20 major boating and water safety organizations from around the country in signing the document at the International Boating and Water Safety Summit held March 6-9, 2011, in Savannah, Ga.

The plan—drafted by a team from the National Boating Safety Advisory Council, the Coast Guard Office of

Auxiliary and Boating Safety and other boating safety experts—outlines key performance goals and objectives necessary to reduce recreational boating fatalities and injuries over the next five years.

During 2009, 736 boaters died in accidents and another 3,358 were injured. The plan for 2012-16 outlines 11 objectives and supporting strategies aimed at developing a “robust safety culture” among the boating public through a combination of educational outreach, regulation and enforcement.

NASBLA members and associates played a major role in the drafting and approval process of this plan. The organization now hopes to be further involved with the implementation of the objectives discussed in the Strategic Plan that promote safety on the water.

The 11 objectives identified in the plan target education certificates and course completions, boating safety outreach, advanced and/or on-water skills-based boating education, life jacket wear, operator compliance, navigation rules, boating under the influence, manufacturer compliance, operator compliance with USCG-required safety equipment, boating accident reporting, research and development, and effectiveness of non-profit organization grants.

“In the upcoming years, NASBLA will be working to create new programs and ideas that promote the objectives of the

Strategic Plan, as well as further engaging the boating public in NASBLA programs, such as Operation Dry Water and the BOAT Program, that already encourage its mission,” Graybeal said.

To view a copy of the Strategic Plan, and learn more about NASBLA’s role in its implementation, please visit <http://www.nasbla.org/strategicplan>.



*Marlene Mason      Kristy Moore*

## **Welcome aboard**

NASBLA has added two new faces to its staff at the headquarters office in Lexington, Ky. – a staff accountant and a communications & community engagement specialist.

Marlene Mason joins NASBLA after 11 years as the firm accountant at Potter & Company, LLP, a Lexington accounting firm. Prior to joining Potter, she was the accounting manager at the Blue Grass Trust for Historic Preservation, where she gained an extensive knowledge of nonprofit accounting.

As staff accountant for NASBLA, Marlene oversees the accounting practices of the Association, ensures

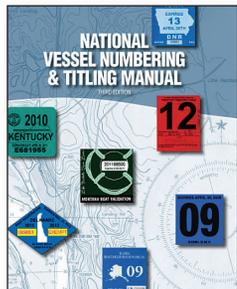
compliance with federal nonprofit accounting standards, and prepares financial reports and other documents necessary for the annual audit.

A “rabid UK fan,” Marlene loves to cook, ride horses and play golf...not necessarily in that order!

Kristy Moore joins the NASBLA team in a newly created position – communications & community engagement specialist. She is launching NASBLA’s new online community and heading up NASBLA’s social media presence. In addition she helps staff the Education and Awareness Committee.

Kristy holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of Kentucky in Communications and Information Studies with an emphasis in corporate communications. She has an extensive customer service background, and in her previous position at Information Today Inc., she managed marketing and social media campaigns for several publications.

### **New National Vessel Numbering & Titling Manual now available**



The third edition of the *National Vessel Numbering & Titling Manual* is now available for purchase. This book will assist numbering & titling professionals and others in improving their state programs by providing information on specific state numbering & titling laws, regulations and related areas.

This manual summarizes information gathered in a survey of states’ numbering and titling practices and requirements conducted by NASBLA’s Vessel Identification, Numbering &

Titling Committee. The book features information on which states title vessels and which vessels require a title in each state, as well as contact information for state agencies, marine theft units, registration agencies and titling agencies.

“By sharing this information among the states, the *Numbering & Titling Manual* will advance NASBLA’s goals of uniformity and reciprocity across the nation, as well as assist in reducing boat fraud and theft,” said NASBLA Executive Director John Johnson. Order your copy of the *National Vessel Numbering & Titling Manual* (Third Edition) by visiting the

NASBLA Online Store at <http://www.nasbla.org/manual>. (Price: \$49 plus applicable shipping and handling. Government discount available – contact Sam Lynch at 859.225.9487 or [sam@nasbla.org](mailto:sam@nasbla.org) for details.) \*

*New Panel*

### **New panel promotes open consensus-based development of boating education standards**

NASBLA has established a new panel to oversee the boating education standards. The 15-member Boating Education Standards Panel will review, develop and revise the National Boating Education Standards using open, consensus-based procedures that conform to the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) essential requirements for due process.

The panel will include representatives from state, federal, nonprofit, commercial and public stakeholder interests. The selection process is under way now, with the NASBLA Executive Board selecting applicants for the inaugural panel. Applications will be accepted year-round, and the application process is open to all who are directly and materially affected by the Standards. Participation is not conditional upon membership in NASBLA or any other related organization.

The panel will review the National Boating Education Standards on a five-year basis beginning in 2011, with the most currently approved version of the Standards forming the basis for

the first review. An initial “call for proposed revisions” to the Standards will be announced after the panel organizes its work, with instructions for submissions to the call. The Standards document up for review and other resource items are available on the NASBLA website.

“By including a public call for revisions shortly into the tenure of the new Panel, as well as a public review of the revised Standards document, we believe that we are increasing the likelihood that current, critical issues in the recreational boating safety community will be identified and addressed. We also believe that the open application process will result in a Panel membership with diverse experiences and backgrounds – not dominated by any single interest – that will be reflected in the revisions of the Standards,” said NASBLA President Jim Graybeal.

To learn more about the Education Standards Panel, its Rules, and the application process, please visit <http://www.nasbla.org>.

**Y**ou wouldn't exactly be minting a new association if you mentioned the United States Coast Guard and resource challenges in the same sentence.

The concept of America's premier boat force stretching its stock as it tries to keep up with the times is a cliché at this point, and as the Coast Guard steps into a new decade with a reach toward 2021, its established knack for doing more with less is being tested again.

We will incidentally spotlight some modern obstacles in this article, but they are really just recasts of obstacles we've long known. The issue remains resources: too few of them and an ever-evolving mission roster that calls for

not only better-equipped boat forces personnel but also better-trained personnel with the knowledge, experience and skills required to address the changing canvas. The new problem is the old problem. But the difference today is in the solutions.

The Coast Guard has stopped looking exclusively at itself as the answer to every challenge. If there was a time in not-too-distant-memory that the Coast Guard reflexively cannibalized one of its own mission's resources for the sake of another, that time is past. We heard testimony to this effect last month from the Commandant of the Coast Guard, Admiral Robert J. Papp Jr., when he delivered his State of the Coast

Guard address from Bolling Air Force Base, in Washington, D.C.

In a frank speech that made reference to "increased responsibilities," "serious fiscal challenges," and a need to take a "hard look" at future initiatives before accepting them, our Commandant addressed the problem head-on. "I openly acknowledge that the Coast Guard does not have the resources to perform at one-hundred percent in every one of our statutory missions on every given day," he declared. He did not take long, however, to emphasize a changing course. To the audience of his address, and to the world, he stated resolutely: "More with less' is not an acceptable option."

# NASBLA

## **BOAT Program:**

*Strengthening  
partnerships*



By Ames Holbrook  
Office of Boat Forces, U.S. Coast Guard



Admiral Robert J. Papp delivers his first State of the Coast Guard address. U.S. Coast Guard photo/Petty Officer 2nd Class Patrick Kelley

How, then, does the Coast Guard succeed from here? In this state of expanding roles and dwindling budgets on the watch of a Commandant who refuses to do more with less, what possible ways forward does the Coast Guard really have? Well, Admiral Papp provided at least one important answer in that very State of the Coast Guard address when he outlined his Four Principles – all four of which, the Commandant stressed, need to be worked on by the Coast Guard all the time. Third principle on Admiral Papp’s list? Strengthening partnerships.

Coast Guard partnerships have picked up steam in recent times. The Coast Guard’s historic partnership in safety with the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) broke into force-multiplier territory two years ago with the launching of NASBLA’s Boat Operations and Training (BOAT) Program, which established a national standard for training and credentialing maritime law enforcement and rescue personnel. And in an unconnected advance, boat tactics and terminology in Customs and Border Patrol and the United States Coast Guard, once wildly divergent, are today being aligned as the agencies cooperate more closely. Such standardization and partnership is a condition of our times.

This past fall in Florida, however, marked the full start of certainly one of the most innovative partnerships to date. A mere four months after Admiral Bob Papp succeeded Admiral Thad Allen as Commandant, Coast Guard Boat Forces personnel from multiple stations participated in professional training alongside state and local maritime enforcement personnel in the NASBLA BOAT Tactical Operators Course (TOC). Taught by contracted instructors who are not active-duty Coasties (including some who have never been in the Coast Guard at all) at stations that request it, the NASBLA TOC is a five-day exportable training block that the Coast Guard now endorses as formal training for tactical coxswains. That’s right – this is Coast-Guard-sanctioned qualification training.

The NASBLA BOAT TOC is answering a need. The Coast Guard already has its own Tactical Coxswain Course at its premier resident training facility, the Joint Maritime Training Center/Special Missions Training Center (JMTC/SMTC) on the North Carolina coast. But for all the top-notch training the JMTC/SMTC provides (the Coast Guard still lists its resident Tactical Coxswain Course as the preferred route to Tactical Coxswain certification), it has, in recent years, not fully met the

requirements of the field. First off, the JMTC/SMTC has been unable to process students quickly enough to keep up with demand. The Coast Guard has a 450-personnel-a-year requirement for Tactical Coxswain certification. JMTC/SMTC can metabolize 200 of them. That rate naturally contributed to a compounding waiting list that threatened unit capabilities and pushed some aspiring tactical coxswains’ training dates so far forward as to seem irrelevant. And even the waiting list is beyond the reach of some. If, for example, you’re the coxswain of a 33’ SPC-LE, the JMTC/SMTC will not enroll you in the Tactical Coxswain Course. JMTC/SMTC does not train all platforms.

“

*NASBLA broke into force-multiplier territory two years ago with the launching of the BOAT Program, which established a national standard for training and credentialing maritime law enforcement and rescue personnel.* ”

So, along comes the nimble NASBLA BOAT TOC – a demand-driven (i.e., backlog-resistant) course that sends a cadre of expert instructors into the field to train coxswains on their own platforms – in their own areas of responsibility if desired – with little wait time, and provides the valuable bonus of allowing Coast Guard personnel to train alongside their maritime partners from state and local enforcement agencies. In the Coast Guard training universe, this is called a revolution. And it was the revolution in Florida that autumn week that drew eager students from across the state – and other locales as far-flung as Detroit and San Juan – to take part in the training that, for them and their home stations, couldn’t have come soon enough.

But for the warm reception on the front end to translate into satisfied graduates on the back would require more than a good concept. The training would have to be outstanding, as well. After all, this was to serve as an alternative to the time-proven JMTC/SMTC course, despite not being an exact replica. While it is the same in terms of tactics (with identical language, tasks and definitions), its transparent distinctions (the TOC has no live firing, only one nighttime session, and a specific focus on the coxswain and boat driving) were liable to leave it open to challenge if the students got any less than what they



*Multiple 33's lined up for underway training at the Coast-Guard-authorized NASBLA Tactical Operators Course.*

hoped they would out of the experience. And they arrived with high hopes. When asked what they wanted to get out of the course, the Santi-Ayala-instructed class in Miami (three BOAT TOCs took place in Florida that week – the other two were in Key West and St. Petersburg) offered a long list of expectations, including this sample: get fluent in terminology; complete formal training needed to get certified; fill in OJT knowledge; better understand tactics; transition from crew to coxswain; raise home unit tactical level; succeed in joint agency interaction; learn teaching skills; improve boat-handling; educate senior command. It was no small order.

So, for those five days in Florida, while the NASBLA instructors evaluated the students and tested them to the limits of their capabilities, the students evaluated the course, testing its limits at the same time. As designed by course creator Mark DuPont, a retired Coast Guard boatswain and reserve Florida Fish and Wildlife officer (DuPont has cultivated the NASBLA BOAT Program from its inception along with Jeff Wheeler, deputy chief of the Coast Guard's Office of Boat Forces), the NASBLA BOAT TOC teaches students in the classroom in the mornings and then gets them on the water in the afternoons to put their lessons to use.



*Coasties train alongside state and local partners in a NASBLA BOAT TOC in Key West.*

The afternoon boat-driving excitement overrides any post-lunch letdown, and the anticipation of these afternoon drills keeps students involved in their class work all morning long.

But anticipation of boat driving isn't the only thing that keeps students alert in the classroom. There are also competitions. On day one, students are broken into teams that will work together after each break to guess top ten lists – ten winningest college football programs, ten longest American rivers, etc. Beyond the

competitions are the real-world stories: Hurricane Katrina restoration failures, Gulf of Aden piracy, Los Angeles civil unrest that shut down the ports, the Mumbai attacks, the Achille Lauro hijacking, the Amadou Diallo shooting in the Bronx, and others that the instructors lace in to drive home the lessons' importance. Students enrich the discussion with their own tales, such as one Coastie's account of a man on a chug who poured fuel on everybody in the boat and himself, and then lit a torch. There are also overhead videos, like the chilling Tamil Tiger waterborne machine-gun assault footage, that play to a silent and rapt

class. The students come out of the building primed for the boat driving that follows.

When it comes to the on-water training, Mark DuPont has here again assembled every component – from the pace and character of the scenarios to the role of the instructors – with painstaking design. "We teach to the capabilities of the student, as opposed to the capabilities of the platform," said DuPont. "We already know the capabilities of the platform."

## Partnerships between the Coast Guard and other agencies are a growing priority.



As the drills proceed, the students' boat handling in escorts, handoffs, pursuits and other scenarios improve markedly over even the period of a single afternoon. Personnel work together better too, both within their own units and across agency lines, as the exercises proceed. Radio communications between the Coast Guard and local law enforcement, initially tentative, transform to bold and comradely by the second day. "Our training style is different," DuPont stated. "We're proactive, we use positive reinforcement. Our course is designed to train multiple levels of talent."

Each evening when the underway training is finished, the whole group ties the boats up and steps back on shore to discuss lessons learned. And it is this stage here, dockside under the setting sun – with instructors and pupils and advisors gathered together, engaged in lively discussion – that validates the course. This is the event that confirms without question that the training has hit its mark. Instructor Eric Johnson, of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission, likes what he sees. Like the rest of the NASBLA instructor corps, Johnson has spent a lot of time on the water – in his case three decades as a maritime law enforcement officer. When students are asked what they've gained, he listens to their enthusiastic answers pour in: 'I understand sectors and get the language now.' 'More confidence at night.' 'I could do any PWCS mission



*NASBLA Instructor Eric Johnson conducts some waterside training.*

now and I'd be comfortable.' 'I'll be able to sign off on quals.' 'Heightened senses and heightened awareness.' 'Now I can take what I learned and train others.' 'We bridged the lingo – everybody understands each other.' 'I've never done pursuit before; this brings me one step closer.' 'The understanding that it's not just us – we have partner agencies out there we can work with.' 'The biggest thing is that we're all going to be on the same page.'

If Mark DuPont achieves his bold vision, everybody in the country will be on the same page. He is not shy in broadcasting NASBLA's goal of training – directly or indirectly – every state and local officer across the country to the same standard. He believes it is a

national imperative to have an American standard – much like what we already have in safety – for protecting ports and high value assets. And it's also essential for the Coast Guard to reach out for help. DuPont said, "Operating in the state of Florida, the Coast Guard has 145 boats. FWC has 500 boats and 12 aircraft. In the Miami area alone, there are 30 agencies with boats. Admiral Papp knows what's coming. He sees we need to leverage these assets."

The NASBLA BOAT Tactical Operator's Course is advancing Admiral Papp's partnership principle with every graduating crop. "You are all the rising tide," DuPont announces to a receptive class. "You are going to come out of here and teach people in the system how to do it right." When the class peels away from the dock at the end of the day, their collective mood suggests they are excited to do just that. And for the first time anybody can remember, the United States Coast Guard is set to do more with more. ✨

*Ames Holbrook is assigned to the U.S. Coast Guard's Office of Boat Forces, in the Department of Homeland Security.*

*Editor's note: This article was originally published in a closed system within the Department of Homeland Security. This version has been sanitized and printed with permission from the U.S. Coast Guard.*

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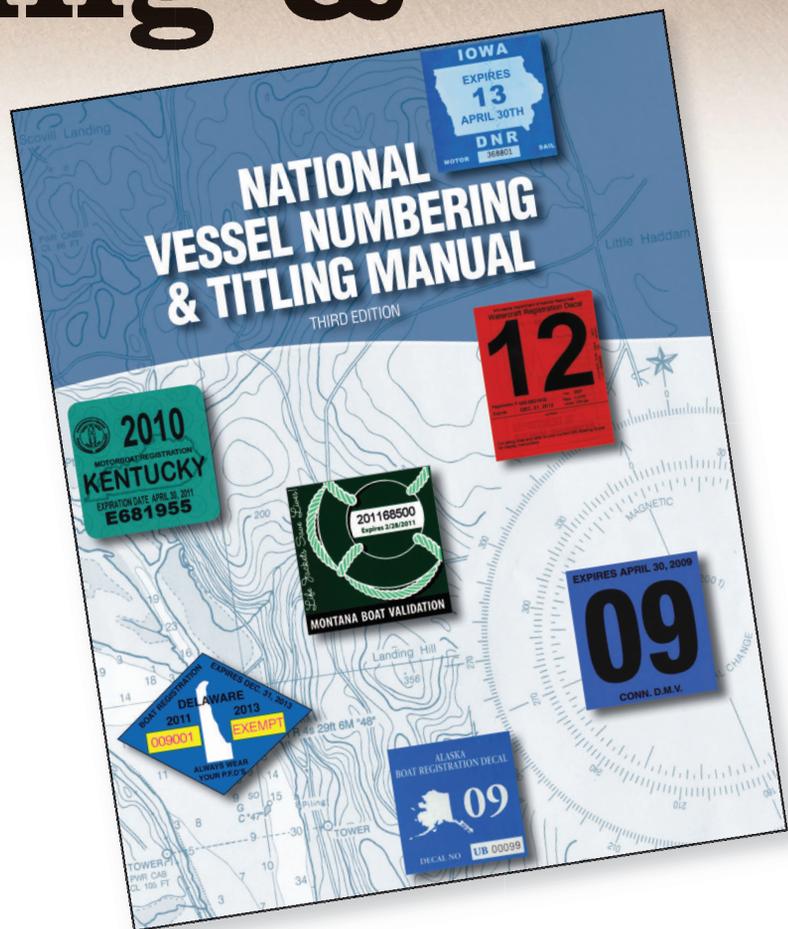
# National Vessel Numbering & Titling Manual

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# Law enforcement

## SYMPOSIUM EMBRACES PARTNERSHIPS

By John Fetterman, NASBLA Law Enforcement Director, and Karen Muench, Ohio Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Training Director

**R**ecreational boating is a growing, vibrant activity and economic engine in Ohio. An overwhelming breach in the security of Lake Erie would have a devastating blow not only on the waterways but also on the state's economy. Law enforcement officers in the Lake Erie region understand that tapping into the observations of recreational boaters and soliciting their cooperation and support is just as important as sharing homeland security information within the law enforcement community itself. This collaborative community isn't just talking about it – they are taking a holistic approach to homeland security. Five years ago representatives from multiple jurisdictions, including several states, Canada and federal law enforcement agencies, worked together to create the Lake Erie Maritime Law Enforcement Symposium. Spearheaded by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' Division of Watercraft, the symposium has grown from a very small group of law enforcement officials to a well-attended event in both numbers and diversity that truly represents the length and breadth of Lake Erie, a porous international border – and recreational boating hotspot.

The fifth symposium, held in February 2011, in Richfield, Ohio, featured a series of presentations, with a constant focus on partnerships and effective sharing of information. John Fetterman, director of law enforcement with the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators, attended the event to give a presentation on NASBLA's Boat Operations and Training Program. The symposium was closed to all but sworn law enforcement, and real intelligence, data and law enforcement resources and assets were shared.

"After 33 years in marine law enforcement I had attended lots of regional meetings with multiple agencies and spent lots of time talking about my favorite subject, Partners on the Water. But this group showed me something I had never seen before – the Lake Erie symposium truly understands the importance of partnerships. This law enforcement community has built a network of working partnerships that recognizes the true value of including the recreational boating community in their security strategy," said Fetterman.

Recreational boating is facing many challenges: a stumbling economy, high fuel prices, the E-15 fuel effects on engines, invasive species – the list goes on and on. In the recreational boating world all those challenges are important and boating law administrators spend a lot of time on those subjects.

"Those aspects of boating all pale in comparison to the effect a marine terrorist event would have on the industry and the boating public," said Karen Muench, law enforcement training director for the Ohio



*Spearheaded by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' Division of Watercraft, the Lake Erie Maritime Law Enforcement Symposium focuses on partnerships and the effective sharing of information. USCG photo/Frank Jennings*

Department of Natural Resources. "This country relies on maritime commerce. Recreational boating will take a backseat when securing the nation's waterways becomes the number-one priority."

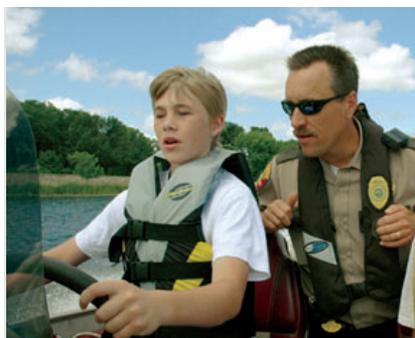
"Homeland security is more than getting to the front of the line for grant dollars to buy more 'stuff.' It's about leveraging what you have and what you know," said Fetterman. "When you properly identify that, then you're ready to effectively leverage grant dollars to train and equip yourselves in a meaningful way – you will fill the gaps."

Now is the time to engage recreational boaters in the homeland security solution. The Lake Erie Law Enforcement Symposium recognizes the challenge and they are meeting it head-on.✱

# New Award

*recognizes excellence  
in boating education*

## **NASBLA is now accepting nominations for the new Boating Educator of the Year Award**



Do you know of a boating safety instructor, an education program manager, a boating safety specialist, or someone else in the field of boating education who really stands out? Why not nominate them for the new Boating Educator of the Year Award?

The National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) and its Strategic Partner, BoaterExam.com, are pleased to announce the new Boating Educator of the Year Award. The award is designed to recognize those in the boating education field who truly excel in engaging students and boaters, raising awareness, and making boating education and education initiatives relevant, thorough and exciting.

Nominations for this award must be submitted electronically by a boating law administrator through the members-only portion of the NASBLA website, <http://www.nasbla.org>. Boating law administrators should nominate candidates who have made an outstanding contribution to boating safety through education. Educators and volunteers from state and local agencies and from nonprofit organizations are eligible.

Three regional finalists will be chosen and receive an expense-paid trip to the NASBLA Annual Conference. The national winner will be announced and recognized at the Awards Ceremony during the conference. This year's annual conference is being held Sept. 10-14 in Milwaukee, Wis.

"Because of the important role boating educators play in recreational boating safety, they clearly deserve to be recognized. With this award, NASBLA will acknowledge those educators who are making a noticeable effort to increase boating safety awareness and reduce accidents, injuries and deaths on the water through education," said NASBLA Executive Director John Johnson.

The nomination deadline for the Boating Educator of the Year Award is June 30, 2011. For more information, please visit <http://www.nasbla.org>.\*



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*Because of the important role boating educators play in recreational boating safety, they clearly deserve to be recognized. With this award, NASBLA will acknowledge those educators who are making a noticeable effort to increase boating safety awareness and reduce accidents, injuries and deaths on the water through education.*

Executive Director  
John Johnson

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## Test

# Anxiety, computer wary?

By Ashley Massey,  
Public Information Officer,  
Oregon State Marine Board

**F**or many seasoned Oregon boaters, the reality of having to take a test now that the state's mandatory boater education requirement phase-in is complete causes anxiety and uncertainty.

"This is why it's so important to have skilled and passionate volunteer instructors for the classroom," says MariAnn Koloszar, education coordinator for the Marine Board. "We are so fortunate to be able to work with some of the best volunteer instructors, who are flexible and caring and tailor their classroom courses to specific learning styles – on the boaters' schedule."

Oregon's Mandatory Boater Education Program was passed by the 1999 Legislature and since 2009, all boaters (12 and older) who operate a powerboat over 10 horsepower are required to take a boating safety course and carry a boater education card when out on the water.

"The volunteer instructors for the Marine Board have been an incredible asset to Oregon boaters. The local knowledge they possess is unsurpassed and it makes it easy to connect with students in the classroom," Koloszar says. "They can also help boaters prepare and be less anxious come time for the 60-question test." The Marine Board trains volunteer boating safety instructors and many of them are also affiliated with the United States Power Squadrons and Coast Guard Auxiliary.

## NO PROBLEM FOR OREGON'S VOLUNTEER BOATING SAFETY CLASSROOM INSTRUCTORS



*While test-taking often triggers trepidation, boaters in courses taught by the Oregon State Marine Board's "Three Musketeers" tend to view the final exam with calm confidence, thanks to the volunteer instructors' engaging teaching methods.*  
*Oregon State Marine Board photos*

"Learning is supposed to be fun, and that's what our classroom courses are...fun! Three special volunteers come to mind: Doug White, Jim Trett and Bill Foote. They are the "Three Musketeers" of the classroom," Koloszar gleams. "Each one plays off the others' energy and passion."

Doug White and Bill Foote retired from the Coast Guard Auxiliary after 30 years and have been volunteer instructors for the last five years. Both have won numerous awards from the Marine Board as well as community awards in Marion County. White and Foote also assist the Marine Board with boating safety events and help coordinate on-the-water scenarios for the Marine Law Enforcement Academy, held each spring.

Jim Trett has been a volunteer instructor for the last nine years and recently retired from the Keizer Fire Department. He routinely volunteers for boating and water safety events and loves working with kids.

*Boating safety instructors Bill Foote (left) and Jim Trett regularly volunteer their time to teach courses for the Oregon State Marine Board.*

"Jim is especially engaging when it comes to fire extinguishers. He really gets the students fired up," Koloszar grins. "You'll never forget the P-A-S-S method!"

The Marine Board's Volunteer Instructor Program has 77 certified volunteer instructors throughout Oregon, and that number keeps growing. Boaters interested in becoming a volunteer instructor attend an eight-hour instructor certification course and must have boating and teaching experience and pass a criminal history check.

For more information about Oregon's Mandatory Boater Education and Volunteer Instructor Programs, contact MariAnn Koloszar at 503.378.5158, [mariann.koloszar@state.or.us](mailto:mariann.koloszar@state.or.us).\*



# Navigating the ins and outs of volunteerism

By Kimberly Jenkins

“Volunteering can be an exciting, growing, enjoyable experience. It is truly gratifying to serve a cause, practice one’s ideals, work with people, solve problems, see benefits, and know one had a hand in them.”

These are the words of Harriet “Hat” Naylor, a pioneer in the development of volunteer program management as an acknowledged field in the United States. As national director of the Office of Volunteer Development at what was then the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) in the 1970s, Naylor – an advocate for volunteers and for leaders of volunteers – was certainly an expert on the subject of volunteerism, and understood well what makes volunteers tick.

The reasons people volunteer are as diverse as the individuals themselves. As Naylor points out above, the most common motive for volunteering is altruistic in nature.

“The first reason people volunteer is out of the goodness of their hearts – volunteers generally want to help others,” adds Julie Olberding, MPA, Ph.D., who serves as director and assistant professor of Nonprofit Management Certificate Programs with Northern Kentucky University.

Olberding, who teaches volunteer management, adds that people also volunteer to:

- \* help themselves – these individuals are looking to develop skills, gain experience for their resume, pursue a new challenge;
- \* fulfill social needs – they may want to meet new people or associate with other like-minded individuals; and
- \* attain recognition.

Take for example why Toby Velasquez, boating law administrator for New Mexico, decided to serve on the executive board for the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA):

I recognized that in order to experience and develop professionally within the recreational boating community, serve New Mexico boaters and ensure measurable value to my agency, I had to become engaged, actively participate, and be willing to learn by doing and not watching.

Whatever reasons lie behind the help offered by volunteers, if you manage unpaid workers, it’s important to know them and their motivations so you can place them in a position that works for them as well as for your organization.

## Tips for recruiting and retaining

With budget cuts, limited resources and other obstacles stacking up, volunteers are being considered more and more by government agencies. Volunteers can help continue programs, increase the type and quality of services, and more.

When starting a volunteer program, don’t forget to engage paid staff, advises Olberding. “Make sure the staff buys into the idea,” she says. “Sometimes there can be tension and anxiety because employees, especially in today’s economy, worry about job security.”

Be forthright about why you want to add volunteers to the work group, whether it’s to begin a new program, enhance current offerings, or to improve the services you offer. In addition to gaining the support of staff, it can help to confer with staff, as well as clients and other stakeholders, to gather their thoughts. Olberding suggests asking staff where they would like to see volunteers helping, what skills they’d like volunteers to have.

The first step in recruiting volunteers should involve creating a job description with a title, just as you would for any paid position.

“This creates a sense of formality and professionalism,” says Olberding. The job description provides information about commitments, benefits, network opportunities and more.

Setting criteria for volunteers is also important. Some organizations may accept any and all help offered, but others go through a rigorous recruiting regimen that involves background checks, drug testing and other scrutiny. At any rate, you should undertake some form of selection to ensure that the volunteers will fit the task and fit in with your organization.

The next step is getting the word out.

“Technology is changing the way organizations advertise their volunteer needs,” says Olberding. With the widespread use of the Internet, websites are popular for posting information. Social media outlets, such as Facebook and Twitter, are also growing.

It’s important to reach out to your constituents in a variety of ways.

“Volunteering can be an exciting, growing, enjoyable experience.”

Harriet “Hat” Naylor,  
advocate for volunteers and  
for leaders of volunteers

Olberding adds that word of mouth is still a tried and true form of advertising. And another important outlet is simply to make announcements during meetings.

Take this one step further and employ the direct ask. In *The Decision to Volunteer*, authors Beth Gazley, Ph.D. and Monica Dignam point out that direct approaches, such as a request by a staff member or another volunteer, were much more effective than passive recruitment techniques.

**The estimated dollar value of volunteer time for 2010 was \$21.36 per hour.**

Source: Independent Sector

services to assist other members to do their jobs better.”

She goes on to say, “Volunteering allows you to make a small contribution that can have a big impact, whether it is one-on-one, say, through teaching a boating class, or working on a national board.”

Bringing a wide range of skills, experiences and special talents, volunteers undoubtedly provide immeasurable advantages to an organization. A primary benefit is that the organization can accomplish more work with less money. Other paybacks include greater exposure for the organization and its programs, positive public relations, increased partnerships and networking opportunities, and new ideas and perspectives.

However, the costs of managing a volunteer force are often overlooked, said Olberding. While volunteers do not receive monetary compensation, utilizing volunteers generally isn't cost-free.

Expenses can include money used to plan, implement and manage the volunteer program; recruitment costs (handouts, advertising, background checks); office space, equipment and supplies; training and orientation; uniforms; travel of staff and reimbursement of volunteer expenses; insurance; and incentives, such as certificates, awards, food, t-shirts, hats. Other costs include the time staff spend managing the volunteer program – tracking time, providing assistance and supervision, handling any personnel issues – and the time they spend away from their regular duties.

Despite the costs, volunteers are an invaluable commodity that can vastly augment an organization's capabilities. As the saying goes, “Volunteers aren't paid, not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless.” \*

Herb Angell, the boating law administrator for Nebraska, concurs with this finding. When asked what motivated him to serve in his current position as a member-at-large on NASBLA's Executive Board, he explains that he'd served on the board in the past and, unfortunately, did not have a good experience. “I swore I'd never step up again. Then a couple of the guys spoke with me and, due mostly out of respect for them personally, I jumped in,” says Angell.

After attracting volunteers, the key is to retain them. A big part of this hinges on providing a meaningful experience. Volunteers want to feel like they're part of the organization, says Olberding. So in addition to any training you provide, be sure to include an orientation that covers information about the organization, contact information for who will help them, a list of their responsibilities, and so on. Take time to offer any needed training. Be sure the volunteers feel like they are valued.

An important component in ensuring that volunteers feel valued is to recognize them for their contributions.

Mary V. Merrill, a longtime educator and leader in the field of volunteerism, once stated, “[Recognizing volunteers] serves not only to satisfy basic human needs but also to motivate volunteers to continue their involvement. Recognition lets volunteers know that others acknowledge and appreciate what they do. It tells them they are doing something well and that they have something meaningful to contribute.”

The easiest way to show your appreciation is to say “thank you.” Certificates based on hours or even years of experience provide tangible evidence of appreciation. Some organizations also hold special events, such as dinners or banquets, to honor their volunteers.

*Volunteering allows you to make a small contribution that can have a big impact.*

Eleanor Mariani,  
Connecticut BLA

However, Olberding cautions, “Be sensitive to whether people want to be publically recognized.” Other handy perks include corporate wear, badges and discounts.

## Benefits and costs

Why do volunteers give their time and talents to an organization that does not pay them? *In Doing Good—The Benefits of Volunteering for Your Life, Your Career, Your World*, Melissa D'Archangelo states, “Volunteering has obvious positive impacts on the community, professions, and people who are the direct recipients of the work, but it can have real benefits for the individual as well, which makes it well worth the investment.”

In addition, the World Volunteer Web ([www.worldvolunteerweb.org](http://www.worldvolunteerweb.org)) cites several personal benefits of volunteering, referencing Ten Professional Development Benefits of Volunteering (*Everything I Learned in Life I Learned through Volunteering*) by the late Mary V. Merrill, a prominent volunteer management consultant. These benefits include:

- \* Learning or developing a new skill
- \* Being part of one's community
- \* Fostering motivation and a sense of achievement
- \* Developing new interests and hobbies
- \* Encountering new experiences
- \* Meeting a diverse range of people

New to the NASBLA Executive Board, Eleanor Mariani, BLA for Connecticut, has volunteered countless hours serving on and chairing various NASBLA committees and subcommittees over the years. For her, the experience has provided a number of the benefits mentioned above.

“I first volunteered on committees to get involved on a deeper level with NASBLA. The committees were an excellent way to really get to know other members and keep a pulse on national issues,” Mariani explains. “I found it refreshing to work at a national level, really looking at the ‘big picture’ and developing products and

# Volunteers

By Kimberly Jenkins

## vital to sustaining safety

**C**ontrary to rumor, Len Llewellyn did not learn his boating skills from Christopher Columbus. It is true though that, at the young age of 18, he was already a confident enough boater to undertake the challenge of becoming an instructor within New York's fledgling *Make Sure Make Shore* boating safety course focused on teaching 10- to 14-year-olds.

Len became involved in the program after seeing an ad in the local Long Island newspaper announcing the recruitment and training of individuals interested in teaching boater safety. At the time, Len didn't have a driver's license and the training could not be reached by boat. So Len asked his dad to drive him to the Riverside High School and the rest is history.

Len, who eventually got his driver's license, has been driving himself to boating safety courses for the last 50 years. He has remained true to the original intent of the course and continues to offer courses specifically for young boaters, though he never discourages parents who want to learn with their children.



At a National Safe Boating Week kickoff event last spring, New York recognized one of its most dedicated volunteer instructors, Len Llewellyn (right), who has been teaching the safe boating course since 1960. Llewellyn, along with some 200 well-wishers, including County Legislator Edward Romaine (left), celebrated his 50 years of teaching. OPRHP photo

### Valuable volunteers

Len is just one of the tens of thousands of volunteers that help carry out the states' recreational boating safety (RBS) programs. With ongoing economic problems, continual budget cuts and further embracing of the "do more with less" attitude, volunteers are becoming more valuable than ever before.

Volunteers help with a variety of tasks in the realm of recreational boating safety – from demonstrating how to don a life jacket at a safety fair to instructing firefighters in water rescue, and from teaching a boating safety class to local boaters to talking with boaters about the importance of keeping litter out of the waterways. Volunteer programs vary across the country with some agencies managing hundreds or even thousands of unpaid workers while others utilize only a handful. And some state agencies have no system in place to use any volunteers. Following is a snapshot of how some state agencies benefit from the invaluable assistance provided by volunteers.

### Arizona

The Arizona Game and Fish Department retains 25 volunteer boating safety instructors to present boating safety



An Arizona Game & Fish Department volunteer helps educate kids about how to throw a Type IV from the agency's Wear It! boat. To educate the parents at the same time, the volunteer wears an inflatable fanny pack. AGFD photo

courses and to staff various boating safety events. The agency also enlists volunteers to assist with shore-side and on-the-water outreach efforts focusing on life jacket wear, carbon monoxide awareness, sober boating and maintaining a proper lookout at all times. Volunteers are generally recruited among interested individuals in boating safety courses and through the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. The volunteers contribute around 2100 to 2500 hours annually.

### California

The California Department of Boating and Waterways (DBW) uses various volunteers throughout the year to reach the agency's statewide demographics. Volunteers primarily help with various boating safety events. Additionally, volunteers from many different organizations – including Dockwalkers, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, aquatic centers, and marinas – help with distributing the department's publications to boaters.



Numerous volunteers assist with a life jacket trade-in hosted annually by California Department of Boating and Waterways. Cal DBW photo

"Volunteers sometimes seek us out to find out how they can get involved with boating safety," said DBW's Marcia Carlock "Other times, we contact volunteers when we need assistance reaching boaters. Some of the organizations we seek volunteers through are the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, United States Power Squadrons and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers."

The department offers free Dockwalkers Training Workshops to volunteers, providing interactive education on visiting marinas and distributing clean and green boating information. Other volunteers receive onsite education on state boating laws, safe boating practices, etc. "Most, if not all, of our volunteers have prior training in boating and water safety," added Carlock.

Functions the volunteers fulfill include:

- \* Providing interactive education to boaters;
- \* Educating boaters about new legislation;
- \* Distributing information about Clean Boating; and
- \* Distributing Boater Kits (The Boater Kit is an organic tote bag filled with educational materials, a tide book, an oil-absorbent pillow with reusable zip tie and instructions, and a Clean Boating map. Boaters can receive these kits after completing a brief boater questionnaire/pledge.)

## Colorado

The Colorado State Parks' boating safety program utilizes approximately 20 volunteers annually. Typically these volunteers serve as instructors for boating safety education classes, assist with patrol boat motor break-in (to fulfill the manufacturer's warranty), fulfill administrative needs, and staff outreach events such as boat shows and safety fairs.

"Most of our volunteers seek us out; they're either past employees looking to stay active or boaters who have been through our boating safety classes and have an interest in giving back," said Kris Wahlers, boating safety coordinator with Colorado State Parks. In 2010, these volunteers provided 568 documented hours of service.

Another way the Colorado agency recruits is through website partner Volunteer Outdoors ([www.volunteeroutdoors.net](http://www.volunteeroutdoors.net)). This site is also used to manage the volunteers, regardless of how they're recruited.

Volunteers who want to instruct boating safety classes must complete the class as a student, then assist in teaching a class with a current instructor. Before they're allowed on their own, they also receive administrative training on professionalism, expectations, dress, conduct, etc. The motor break-in volunteers are handpicked for their skill and experience in operating a vessel, so little training is provided. Administrative duties can consist of data entry, filing and event preparation, and volunteers receive on-the-job training as new tasks are introduced. Outreach volunteers also receive basic training initially. But most of what they need to know is learned by working with a paid employee at the event.

## Idaho

Volunteers with the Idaho Department of Parks & Recreation's boating program assist with the agency's annual marine law enforcement training courses, boat shows, fairs, river outreach, parades and other boating safety events. The cadre of volunteers consists of about 30 general public, 40 Coast Guard Auxiliarists and 10 schoolteachers. The amount of time a volunteer provides depends upon the type of activity, with the average



*Volunteers with the Intermountain Jet Boat Association conduct a boat-trailer backing course as part of a boat rodeo event held by the Idaho Department of Parks & Recreation to kick off National Safe Boating Week in 2010. IDPR photo*

number of hours donated ranging from 10 to 40 for the general public and 100 to 200 hours for Auxiliarists.

To aid in law enforcement training, volunteers participate as "drinkers" during the operating under the influence enforcement wet lab and as role players in on-the-water scenario training.

Another interesting opportunity for volunteers is the department's river safety outreach program in which IDPR personnel give out boating safety items and "I got caught wearing my life jacket" tee-shirts while floating the river.

## Nebraska

Nebraska is unique in that the state doesn't offer any web-based boating safety education courses. Plus, the only classroom course that is recognized for resident boaters is the Nebraska Boating Safety Course. So the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission relies heavily on about 250 volunteers to teach the course to boaters.

"Without volunteers our program would be non-existent," said Herb Angell, boating law administrator for the state of Nebraska.

The agency doesn't utilize volunteers in enforcement programs due to prohibition by state laws.

One of the three Game & Parks boating program staffers is responsible for certifying all the volunteers. A volunteer must have attended and successfully completed a boating safety class. Next, the agency performs a background investigation on potential volunteers and watches for felons or folks who appear to habitually violate boating laws – two criteria that eliminate prospective instructors.

Most of the core group of volunteers come from the ranks of the Coast Guard Auxiliary and the United States Power Squadrons. Another recurrent group is schoolteachers, and a few are simply interested boaters.

"We have no set manner in which we recruit volunteer instructors but we look hard at physical education teachers in our schools, boat dealer employees, and people in our classes who seem particularly interested in boating safety," said Angell.

“The number of hours our volunteers provide is immeasurable,” said Angell. “We offer all sorts of incentives but the majority [of volunteers] are really dedicated. Our biggest challenge is keeping up with the turnover but the stable group is the USCG Auxiliary and USPS. They have a shared mission so we decided to include them in all our classes,” he added.

“*Without volunteers our program would be non-existent.*”  
Herb Angell, Nebraska BLA

### New Hampshire

The New Hampshire Department of Safety has a small cadre of volunteers who are part of its Marine Patrol Auxiliary. Through an organized program loosely mirroring the Coast Guard Auxiliary, these volunteers perform courtesy marine inspections and occasionally do ride-alongs with our sworn personnel as extra eyes and ears and perform mooring enforcement.

“Our program is waning, regardless of some of our best efforts to recruit. It appears as though the interest in volunteering has lost some of its luster in recent years,” said Dave Barrett, New Hampshire’s boating law administrator. “In the 1990s when the Auxiliary was created, we had a membership of over 35. Now we only have 10.”

### Pennsylvania

The Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission uses volunteers in three separate programs – education, training and law enforcement.

Out of 295 active boating course instructors, approximately 65 are considered true volunteers in that they receive no payment from their employers or students.

“Interested individuals often contact us wanting to become instructors. We also find them while conducting Commission training workshops, public

events or through active recruitment efforts,” said Laurel Anders, Pennsylvania’s boating law administrator.

In addition to teaching boating courses, the boating safety education volunteers staff exhibits and assist with other events. They receive at least 16 hours of instructor level training. The Commission doesn’t currently track hours of service for these volunteers.

The PFBC initiated the Pennsylvania Water Rescue Program in 1983 to provide water and ice rescue training for fire and rescue department personnel. Since that time, nearly 20,000 students have been trained in the most current techniques. It is now the largest nonprofit, public water and ice-rescue training program known to exist in the United States.

Individuals contact the PFBC when they are interested in becoming water rescue instructors. The PFBC currently has 152 active volunteer water rescue instructors. These volunteers provided more than 6200 hours of training to first responders in 2010.

The PFBC employs a force of 145 deputy waterways conservation officers to assist in enforcing laws related to fish and watercraft. These individuals are recruited from the local fishing and boating communities. They receive basic training that consists of 100 hours of classroom instruction and 150 hours of on-the-job training, annual updates and recertification training.

“Although considered volunteers, deputies are not unpaid. They receive a \$65 daily stipend for a limited number of days per year,” explained Anders.

These volunteers each contribute an average of 150 hours per year.

### Virginia

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF) supports a robust volunteer program, enlisting the



service of thousands of volunteers. The agency has a full-time workforce of approximately 455 personnel and 65 part-time employees. In addition, the agency as a whole utilizes approximately 5,000 volunteers. These volunteers work an average of over 140,000 hours for DGIF at a return of an estimated \$4.5 million!

“Volunteers are a huge asset to our missions and make a significant contribution to our agency and the citizens of the Commonwealth of Virginia,” said Tom Guess, Virginia’s boating law administrator.

The DGIF volunteers serve in a variety of capacities:

- \* Complimentary Workforce – help with almost every facet of the department’s fish, wildlife and boating missions.
- \* Boating Education Instructors – about 700 individuals serving as volunteer boating safety instructors, teaching boating safety education and conducting outreach events.
- \* Hunter Education Instructors – teach hunter education and do hunting safety and tree stand safety outreach and events.
- \* Day Work Volunteers – help at wildlife management areas and DGIF facilities, conduct wildlife counts, stock fish, help at hatcheries, work with habitat, band birds and waterfowl, help with sporting events and shows, the state fair and many other events.

“*Volunteers are a huge asset to our missions and make a significant contribution to our agency.*”

Tom Guess, Virginia BLA

DGIF finds volunteers through an application process. Depending on the position (e.g., instructor), applicants go through a criminal history and reference check.

“Each program has some nuances regarding how they recruit and manage the volunteer cadre,” explained Guess. “In boating we look for people who are already instructors or teachers in something and who have completed a NASBLA-approved boating education course. Then they get certified as instructors to teach Boat Virginia.”

### **West Virginia**

The West Virginia Division Natural Resources (WVDNR) graduates an average of 300 students per year through its classroom-based boating safety education course. To help facilitate the classes, the state uses

about 50 volunteers. These instructors donate an average of 20 hours per year and drive over 200 miles per year.

Volunteers must pass the base Boating Safety Education Course and attend an additional Instructor Training; total time spent in training is 12 hours. The additional training covers teaching techniques, NASBLA Education Standards, and WVDNR reporting procedures and course policies.

Volunteers are recruited through classes, boating public, and other boating organizations such as the USCG Auxiliary and the United States Power Squadrons.

### **Wisconsin**

In 2010, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources conducted 243 traditional (classroom setting) boating

safety classes, certifying 3,946 students. There were an additional 6,927 students certified via the Internet boating safety class, for a total of 10,873 students certified in Wisconsin boating safety classes.

To assist with educating thousands of boaters each year, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources utilizes nearly 600 volunteer boating safety instructors, most of whom are recruited through word of mouth.

These volunteers receive training through instructor training workshops and academies. In 2010 the 597 volunteer instructors recorded 6685.5 volunteer hours.\*

*Volunteers  
provide  
valuable  
service*

### **By John Annino, Boating Education Coordinator, Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection**

A recent cruise through a dictionary defined “volunteer” as “a person who freely enlists for service without pay.” That sounds so basic. In Connecticut when I think of our volunteers, I see men and women that could be home by a fire on a cold, snowy night or having a barbeque on their deck in better weather. Instead, they choose to go out and share their boating knowledge with strangers in the community. Maybe they stand a watch at a boat show or safety fair on a Saturday when they could be enjoying a day of boating on the water. You get the picture.

In recent years as people experience tougher financial times, the number of volunteers has drastically decreased. Many of the people we’ve depended on have had to work second jobs or spend time at home while spouses entered the workforce. Current times require more than one income per household. Connecticut’s boating program has 97 volunteer instructors. Although this sounds like a lot for a small state, in 2001 there were 140+. Other observations reveal that people who do volunteer are aging, and few young people are stepping up to carry the torch into the future. Lifestyles are too hurried and busy these days. We try recruiting from our courses, at boat shows and even from other organizations with limited success.

This problem is not unique to boating education – it’s happening to all organizations that depend on volunteers. The American Red Cross, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, United States Power Squadrons, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and others are feeling the same pains of slow to no growth. In better times, we had volunteers that

would not only teach the courses but also mentor the “newbies” and be happy to donate 30-80 hours or more every year. In 2002 we introduced our Master of Boating Education program (featured at an IBWSS breakout session). The success of this program was an indication that our faithful and valued volunteers wanted to be the best that they could be.

Many states have gone to online, mail-order or home study education alternatives to sustain their programs with decreasing numbers of volunteers. Private education providers have emerged and created businesses that offer compensation for those teaching courses for them.

These times are difficult for everyone and our programs are always a work-in-progress, constantly evolving and in need of people to deliver them. The next time you see a volunteer instructor, thank them for what they do, and remember – they had a choice of what to do with their time.\*



# 2011 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

SEPTEMBER 10-14, 2011  
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For the most up-to-date information:  
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# Government

# Affairs



Matthew Long  
NASBLA  
Government Affairs Director

## Stakeholders urged to extol benefits of Trust Fund

**T**he national tradition of boating safety and safeguarding our waterways is facing the biggest threat since its inception.

The Federal Boat Safety Act is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year. Last year the fish restoration program Dingle-Johnson celebrated 60 years, and in 2012 the landmark legislation Pittman-Robertson will commemorate 75 years of state-federal partnership in conservation and wildlife management. Due to modern political realities of 2011, however, these fundamental American programs are each at significant risk.

I sit here reading through the national newspapers, each of which is following the current budget debate on Capitol Hill. The news is not good. The nation is facing financial crisis and many critical programs are being cut or eliminated altogether. I fear that the heavy pens of Congress may too shift their focus to the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund.

Over the last five years alone, the Trust Fund has contributed to more than 3.8 billion fish stocked, 8.5 million boat safety inspections and 63,000 acres of fish habitat protected, among a whole host of other programs. These are remarkable accomplishments indeed. In fact, both the user-pay, user-benefit system of the Trust Fund as well as the ability of the states and nonprofit organizations to leverage federal dollars

have both resulted in one of the most impactful federal programs in existence.

The states have always depended on the Trust Fund to continue their efforts in boating safety, water access and habitat management. But those needs have never been as great as they are today. The states are facing significant financial challenges and many agencies are bearing the brunt of massive cuts to their programs. To also reduce federal grant dollars would not just be unfortunate, it would be devastating.

In recognition of the harsh political realities of the moment, as well as the need to preserve the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund at all costs, the Angling and Boating Alliance, of which NASBLA is a member, has shifted its focus away from policy changes and towards continuation of the Fund. The Alliance, which is an ad hoc group of primary Trust Fund stakeholders, will work with Congress to share with them the incredible successes of the programs funded by the Trust Fund and to encourage them to keep it intact moving forward.

This work cannot be done in Washington alone however. We also need the help of the state boating law administrators and other recreational boating safety advocates to share with their members of Congress how vital

the Trust Fund is to the country. Our Fish and Wildlife and industry partners are, at the same time, encouraging their members to share their stories, and we must do the same. Over the past few months, I have asked all boating law administrators to think about the key programs in their states funded entirely or in part by the Trust Fund. More importantly, I have asked for stories that best exemplify how crucial the preservation of the programs contained within the Fund are to the states and the American people. Now is the time for everyone concerned with boating safety, from the BLA to interested boaters, to assemble and share these remarkable stories.

Over the summer and fall months, I encourage everyone who cares about maintaining the impressive boating safety system we currently enjoy to reach out to their Congressional delegation and share these stories. It may be in the form of a letter, phone call or even a ridealong in their District. Personal communication is key in demonstrating the impact the Trust Fund has on their state.

NASBLA will aid in the process, but the states and our partners must take the initiative and help preserve these uniquely American programs. Working together, we can help ensure the integrity of a successful national boating safety paradigm for another forty years.\*



### Coast Guard advisory group approves life jacket resolution

During the spring meeting of the National Boating Safety Advisory Council (NBSAC) held in Arlington, Va., on April 1-2, members of the Congressionally mandated advisory group to the Coast Guard on recreational boating safety, approved a new resolution for life jacket wear.

Passing with 15 in favor to 5 opposed, the resolution asks the Coast Guard to initiate efforts that target a future regulatory project to pursue requirements for life jacket wear for recreational boaters while underway and riding in or upon

## BOATING

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- a) personal watercraft, regardless of length;
- b) human powered vessels (such as canoes, kayaks, rowboats, etc.) regardless of length;
- c) any vessel less than 18 feet in length; and
- d) any person being towed while engaged in water sports.

The resolution also instructs the Coast Guard to work with key partners to develop a strategy to engage the boating public on this topic through pre-rulemaking consultation aimed at informing the public about the potential benefits of such regulation, gauging public opinion about life jacket wear based on boating type and activity, and making decisions on this topic based on a thorough understanding of both public sentiment and potential benefits.

In addition, the resolution asks the Coast Guard to streamline the life jacket testing and approval process to reduce the overall cost of highly comfortable life jackets, support innovation and creativity in life jacket design and technology, and allow improved life jacket models to reach the consumer more quickly and easily. By doing so, the Coast Guard should give proper consideration to the acceptance of alternative life jackets by completing and accepting a harmonized North American standard.

According to a statistician at the meeting, approximately 82 million Americans go boating each year and there are about 400 drowning deaths on average. If the recommendations of the NBSAC resolution were enacted, it was predicted about 70-80 additional lives would be saved. \*



### asks for comments on boating practices



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is asking boaters to report how they operate and maintain their boats as a part of developing and eventually implementing new recreational watercraft management practices under the Clean Boating Act of 2008.

The deadline for comments is June 2.

“Management Practices would be methods, techniques or tools which could mitigate any environmental impact of normal discharges into our waters,” said BoatUS Vice President of Government Affairs Margaret Podlich. “They will vary according to boat type and what that vessel could potentially discharge. But it’s important to understand they are looking at all recreational watercraft.”

Boaters can e-mail the EPA directly at [CleanBoatingAct-HQ@EPA.GOV](mailto:CleanBoatingAct-HQ@EPA.GOV) until June 2.

“The EPA shared with us that they expect to use some of the more common clean boating techniques already found in some areas,” said Podlich. “However, no specific proposal or required action was presented, so more details are elusive. As a result, boaters need to stay tuned to what EPA is planning and make their voices heard in these listening sessions.” \*

# BOATING

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## Kentucky wins award for promoting life jacket wear

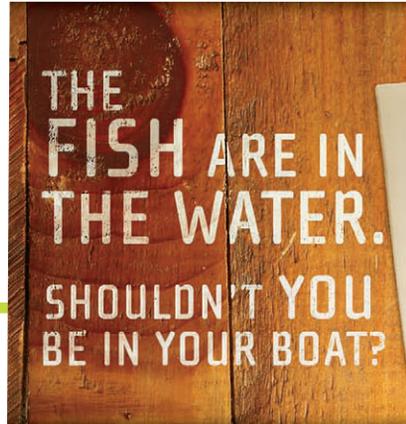
The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources' push to increase the wearing of life jackets has received a major show of support. In February, the agency received a Silver ADDY from the American Advertising Federation, Lexington Chapter for its 30-second radio public service announcement on the importance of wearing a life jacket.

"You don't just show people a pretty picture," said Charlie Baglan, KDFWR's radio producer. "You show them a mirror. Keep it simple, creative, and let people see themselves reflected in the message."

In the award-winning PSA, listeners hear what too many boaters say, "I'm a good swimmer. I don't need a life jacket." The 30-second spot goes on to point out when a person is hurt, choking or freezing, he or she cannot rely on skills and abilities.\*

“*You don't just show people a pretty picture," said Charlie Baglan, KDFWR's radio producer. "You show them a mirror. Keep it simple, creative, and let people see themselves reflected in the message.*”

## Lapsed boater recruitment reels in renewals, revenue



### Renew your boat registration... EASY AS 1, 2, 3

1. **Renew online:** Go to [www.Ohiodnr.com/watercraft](http://www.Ohiodnr.com/watercraft) and choose "Online Registration Renewal." Enter your boat number and PIN (see below). While you're there, you can also update your address.
2. **Renew by mail:** Return the remittance slip below along with a check or money order for the registration fee due (see amount below) in the enclosed envelope.
3. **Renew in person:** Visit your nearest watercraft registration agent to renew. For a complete listing of agents, please go to [www.Ohiodnr.com/watercraft](http://www.Ohiodnr.com/watercraft).

**Questions?** Call the Division of Watercraft toll free at 1-877-4BOATER and ask for boat registrations.



In March, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Watercraft joined RBFF's Lapsed Boat Registration Pilot Program aimed at increasing boat registration renewals among lapsed boaters. Ohio is the second state to join the direct-mail pilot effort developed by the Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation in partnership with the Oregon State Marine Board (OSMB) and the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW).

"We're delighted that Ohio is joining our direct-mail pilot program," said RBFF President and CEO Frank Peterson. "We know that boat registration renewals help support states' critical fish and wildlife programs and boating infrastructure. And we want lapsed boaters to understand that by simply getting back into boating, they are directly supporting efforts to help preserve their waterways."

RBFF's Lapsed Boat Registration Pilot Program kicked off in April 2009 when the owners of lapsed boat registrations in Oregon, who had not renewed their

registrations since 2007, were sent direct-mail pieces reminding them about the importance of renewing their registration. These Oregon boat owners received one of three remittance forms, which targeted both angler and non-angler households. A separate group of lapsed boats was set aside as a control group for comparison, and their owners received no remittance forms.

The Oregon pilot program had an 8.5 percent response rate during the evaluation period and more than \$20,000 was generated in new revenue to the agency. The registration renewals also generated an estimated \$25,000 in additional revenue to the state of Oregon through state gasoline taxes and allocations from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund.

RBFF is working to expand the Lapsed Boat Registration Pilot Program with three additional states this year. The pilot program is an extension of RBFF's ongoing marketing efforts with state fish and wildlife agencies.\*



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# Briefs



### Life jacket design competition winners announced

If you think that life jackets have to be bulky, uncomfortable or hot to wear, the winners of the Innovation in Life Jacket Design Competition will prove you wrong. The BoatUS Foundation and Underwriters Laboratories (UL) recently announced the winners of their 2011 competition, and you may be surprised at how much the inventive designs break new ground.

The competition, which began last year and was open to anyone, asked a simple question: Can you build a better life jacket? Of the original 35 entries (some from as far away as Malaysia), 15 semi-finalists were selected and short videos of the designs were posted online for the public to pick their favorites, with the focus on choosing life jackets that were more innovative, wearable, affordable, reliable and practical. In addition, expert judges voted for their favorite designs at the recent International Boating and Water Safety Summit held in Savannah, Ga. The combined votes resulted in three winners:

#### 1) THE SEA-TEE BY FLOAT-TECH INC.

The first-place winner is the "Sea-Tee," a design from Jeff Betz of the Troy, N.Y.-based Float-Tech Inc. This isn't Betz's first life jacket innovation – his company started as the result of a graduate school project that designed the firm's first non-traditional

inflatable life jacket based on a foul weather coat. The Sea-Tee is a standard rash-guard shirt that many watersports enthusiasts are used to wearing – but with a twist. It has a built-in inflatable bladder similar to most inflatable life jackets. Betz is careful not to call this a life jacket however, and simply refers to it as a buoyancy aid.

#### 2) THE DIRECTORS BUREAU'S FLOAT COAT

Second place went to the Directors Bureau, a Los Angeles-based creative consulting company that works in the film industry. Their "Float Coat" is a windbreaker with added flotation. While not a unique design, judges felt that the distinctive placement of the flotation, which included never-before-seen hollow "microspheres," or small spherical particles, along with fashionable styling, made it stand out.

#### 3) ST. THOMAS MORE HIGH SCHOOL'S AQUA BUOY

Third place went to the design team of high school seniors Josh Jankowski and Nathan Karabon of St. Thomas More High School in Milwaukee, Wisc. Their design, which marries traditional foam flotation in a modern inflatable configuration, is a result of their school's Pathway to Engineering curriculum. Jankowski and Karabon's interest in designing a life jacket came from learning about the competition while doing research as part of their senior research project.

The winning designs can be seen at [www.BoatUS.com/foundation/winners](http://www.BoatUS.com/foundation/winners). Plans for the next round of the design competition are already under way and will be announced in 2012. \*

### Missouri offers boating safety endorsement on driver's license

This summer Missouri residents will be able to add an endorsement to their driver's license to show they have taken the certified boating safety course for operating a vessel on Missouri lakes. Missouri law requires anyone born after January 1, 1984 to have in their possession proof that they have passed a NASBLA-approved boating safety course while operating vessels on the lakes of the state.

Up until now, residents falling under this requirement were required to have with them the official Missouri boating safety card along with a picture ID. Now, boaters have the option of having a notation added to their Missouri driver's license or ID indicating they have passed an approved course. All that is required is for citizens to present their official boating safety card at their Department of Revenue license office. The cost for adding the boating safety notation is only \$1 in addition to the regular renewal fees. This will need to be done only once. The boating safety notation will remain on the license for future renewals. By doing this, boaters will then only have to carry one document rather than the boating safety card and picture ID.

Non-Missouri residents born after January 1, 1984 can show a NASBLA-approved boating certificate from their state, which Missouri recognizes to fulfill the requirements to operate a boat. Each year, Missouri issues roughly 8,000 boating safety cards to people who have taken the certified safety course taught by state troopers, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary or the United States Power Squadrons. \*

## Ohio boat registrations again hit record high

Despite a sluggish economy, Ohioans pushed state watercraft registrations to a record high for the second year in a row, according to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), Division of Watercraft.

Ohio posted a record 424,700 registered watercraft, significantly higher than the previous record of 419,364 reported in 2009. The totals do not include more than 6,400 additional watercraft, mostly canoes and kayaks, that were registered through commercial liveries. A listing of watercraft registrations for each of Ohio's 88 counties is available online at [www.ohiodnr.com/watercraft](http://www.ohiodnr.com/watercraft).

Among Ohio's registered watercraft, according to the Division of Watercraft:

- \* 316,220 (74 percent) were registered powerboats and personal watercraft;
- \* 89,859 (21 percent) were canoes/kayaks;
- \* 11,616 (2.7 percent) were rowboats; and
- \* 7,005 (1.6 percent) were sailboats without auxiliary power.

During the past decade, the number of Ohio-registered canoes and kayaks more than doubled from 44,198 in 2000 to 89,859 in 2010 – an increase of 103 percent. The Division of Watercraft also reports that the number of watercraft, mostly canoes and kayaks included in commercial livery registrations, increased from 5,282 in 2001 to 6,416 in 2010.

Recreational boating generates an economic impact for Ohio which is estimated at \$3.5 billion yearly, supporting the equivalent of more than 26,000 fulltime jobs, according to a 2007 Great Lakes Commission study. An estimated 3 million Ohioans go boating each year, or nearly one in four Ohioans. Almost half of all Ohio residents (48 percent) have participated in recreational boating at least once in their lifetime, according to an Ohio State University study. \*



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## National Sailing Hall of Fame sets first induction

NASCAR has Charlotte, Rock and Roll has Cleveland, and one can hardly watch sports on TV without hearing about Hall of Fame inductees in basketball (Springfield), baseball (Cooperstown) and tennis (Newport). Now sailing will also have a home, with the National Sailing Center & Hall of Fame (NSHOF) set to honor its first class of inductees on October 23, 2011, at San Diego Yacht Club in California.

The hall will recognize Americans who have made outstanding contributions to the sport of sailing. The NSHOF was formed in 2005 and is working on a permanent facility on the historic waterfront of Annapolis, Md.

"We now have one place that will honor the heroes of American sailing," said US SAILING President Gary Jobson in endorsing the NSHOF. The National Sailing Center & Hall of Fame is accepting nominations through June 1. Nominees must be American citizens, who are 45 years of age and up, and who have made a significant impact on the growth and development of the sport in the U.S. in categories such as design, racing, cruising, coaching and administration, among others. Posthumous nominations will also be accepted. \*



## RBFF's online community recognized as webby award honoree

Fishington – *the Boating & Fishing Capital of the Internet* – has been selected as an Official Honoree in the Social Network category in the 15th Annual Webby Awards. The Take Me Fishing campaign's social networking site for boaters and anglers, which now boasts more than 100,000 members, was among the top 10 percent of all work entered that exhibits remarkable achievement.

"We are delighted to be recognized as a Webby Honoree for the third year in a row," said RBFF President & CEO Frank Peterson. "TakeMeFishing.org and Fishington continue to serve as important vehicles for providing boaters and anglers of all ages and experience levels with 'how to' and 'where to' information to help them successfully plan for a day on the water. And now that we've gone mobile, we're able to provide instant access to that information right in the palm of our visitors' hands."

Hailed as the Internet's most respected symbol for success, The Webby Awards is the leading international award honoring excellence on the Internet, including websites, interactive advertising, online film and video and mobile websites. The 15th Annual Webby Awards received nearly 10,000 entries from all 50 states and more than 60 countries worldwide. \*



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

## Our elite & highly valued volunteer partners

In the last issue of *Small Craft Advisory*, I had the pleasure of addressing our recreational boating safety (RBS) force multipliers – the numerous federal, state and local government, and volunteer partners. Combined, we are the National RBS Team. The whole is made up of the sum of the parts, and each vital part of this Team plays a key role in making recreational boating safer, while at the same time keeping this great American pastime enjoyable.

One of the most essential parts of this Team is our volunteer partners. These dedicated and talented people assist us at all levels and with nearly every component of the National RBS Program. The levels include the national, state and local components of these many volunteer organizations. Between them, they assist us with such RBS components as public education, training, public awareness campaigns, patrolling, and even new potential areas not addressed by volunteers in the past.

At the national level, you can quickly see who our primary volunteer partners are when you read the Strategic Plan of the National RBS Program and see who has signed on to assist us in implementation. The list is too long to repeat here, but these partners to the Plan are a key part of the backbone of its success.

At the state and local levels, there are literally hundreds of organizations and thousands of individuals who make a positive difference in their communities. These people promote local awareness campaigns; they teach NASBLA-approved courses; they teach

on-the-water boating skills; they patrol to provide emergency services and to do research; they assist with training for law enforcement officers and emergency responders; and more.

Many of you may have attended one of the boating safety conferences last fall or this spring. Numerous organizations host these conferences. If you have attended one, you may have heard the Coast Guard report where we emphasized the Tier 1 priority strategies for reducing recreational boating casualties. These strategies are felt to be the most likely to decrease the number of deaths and injuries faster and better:

- 1) significantly increasing the life jacket wear rate quickly;
- 2) implementing a new national awareness campaign similar to (and hopefully as effective as) Minnesota's long-standing, attention-grabbing campaign;
- 3) significantly increasing boat operator skill training on the water; and
- 4) significantly increasing the number of boaters successfully completing a NASBLA-approved course.

A priority is now being given to these areas by the Coast Guard, and we're asking our volunteer partners to do all that they can to assist us in this venture. For many of these organizations, they're old pros at this. They've been teaching NASBLA-approved courses for years, and they do it well. They've been teaching on-the-water skills and want to expand the number of students. They've been promoting wonderful safety campaigns; and they've pushed the envelope on getting boaters to wear their life jackets. With this level of expertise and new emphasis, we're optimistic that we can make a positive difference.

One of the components of the National RBS Program that volunteers have been less involved in is the area of recreational boat construction standards, particularly voluntary standards. These are the standards developed by the American Boat and Yacht Council (ABYC), which are not a mandate for boat manufacturers, but rather a strong recommendation. Many of the boat manufacturers are aware of these standards and live by them, assuring that every boat that they build meets the Coast Guard's requirements as well as the ABYC recommendations.

However, some boat manufacturers may not be aware of the ABYC voluntary standards. These standards go beyond the Coast Guard requirements, ensuring an even safer boat is being built; and, we want to encourage all manufacturers to use them. Thus, we're working with our legal team at Coast Guard Headquarters and one of our key volunteer partners to see if we can initiate a new program whereby they would offer an educational opportunity to any manufacturer to learn about the ABYC standards. This is an exciting new project for the National RBS Program and one that we hope to be able to implement in the near future.

Whether you're an "old pro" volunteer who has played such a vital role in making boating safer and more enjoyable for years, or whether you're new on the block to one of the strategies, we want you to know how important you are to the National RBS Program. You play a crucial role in our success, and your efforts are truly appreciated by the Coast Guard and the entire boating community. ✨

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

**W**hat do you call an individual who over the course of 30 years, for 30 hours a week – which for you “numbers people” is 46,800 hours – provided an estimated \$1.2 million to \$1.4 million in cost savings to Coast Guard manpower?

# Volunteer!

In this case the appropriate word is VOLUNTEER! That’s right; all of the work mentioned above is donated. This terrific example of volunteerism is attributed to Coast Guard Auxiliarist Betty Riddle, who three days a week, over a period of 30 years, would faithfully show up at Coast Guard Station Fort Meyers Beach, Fla., and stand duty in the station’s communications center.

Ms. Riddle retired from the Coast Guard Auxiliary on Feb. 18, 2011, and as an appropriate show of respect and appreciation for her 30 years of faithful service, the station has named the communications center in her honor. It is hard to fathom the number of mariners in distress whose lives were saved, or the number of Coast Guard personnel she has trained and mentored that will carry on her legacy.

If you polled the recreational boating safety community, I would bet there

are other stories and accounts of individuals who have a similar story to tell. I recently came across a quote that I couldn’t find a source for, but I felt it was extremely appropriate. “Those who can, do. Those who can do more, volunteer.”

Volunteers in the recreational boating safety organizations are the force multipliers in providing assistance in educating the estimated 80,000,000 participants in recreational boating that take to our waterways in nearly 13 million registered boats and millions more canoes and kayaks.

Providing assistance and educating boaters comes in many forms. In some

instances it comes in the form of search and rescue cases as Auxiliary flotillas conduct thousands of hours of patrols in all 56 states and territories. It comes in teaching boating safety courses, it comes in the countless hours of conducting vessel safety checks, by both the United States Power Squadrons and the Coast Guard Auxiliary, at the marinas, and boat ramps ensuring that before that decal is applied to that vessel, it complies with the appropriate federal and state equipment carriage requirements. All of this is done on a volunteer basis. These men and woman have a true passion for making our waterways safer, and they expect nothing in return.

The Coast Guard has come to rely on the Coast Guard Auxiliary and the Power Squadrons to carry out a large portion of the education mission to the boating public. These organizations are the primary face of the recreational boating community as they staff booths and participate in National Safe Boating Week events every May.

“*Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not.*”  
Dr. Seuss

I would be negligent if I didn’t mention the fact that the men and woman of these two organizations also support the homeland security mission as they participate in support of America’s Waterway Watch. Their reach is not limited to our nation’s borders. When Haiti was devastated by an earthquake, volunteers lined up to provide assistance as communications watch standers, serve as interpreters, and

fulfill myriad other assignments as directed by the incident commanders – again all as volunteers.

Recreational boating volunteers, committed in service of their country and their community, are making a difference every day in lives saved and accidents prevented. Without the help of these partners our job would be near impossible to accomplish.

So to the Betty Riddles of the world, on behalf of the Coast Guard, I say thank you for taking the time to carry out the mission with such passion and enthusiasm and making the boating experience safe and enjoyable for all its participants. Or, in the words of one of my favorite authors, Dr. Seuss, “Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It’s not.”\*



# PARTNER PERSPECTIVES

Robin Freeman  
National Directorate  
Commodore for Recreational Boating Safety  
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary

## Celebration of volunteerism

About 18 years ago, my husband Rick and I decided it was time to get a little larger boat than our 10' inflatable. We ended up with a 24' center console, a "lean, mean, fishing machine." It was more boat than I felt comfortable with, and after a particularly scary incident during one of our first outings, I told him we were taking a boating safety class. We found the local Coast Guard Auxiliary and signed up for a class.

“Everybody can be great, because everybody can serve.”  
Martin Luther King Jr.

The experience astounded me. People donated their time and talent like this? All to help people like me be a safer, more competent boater? Wow! These Auxiliarists knew their stuff, and they let us know they were always looking for people to join them. Rick and I decided about halfway through the class that we, too, wanted to volunteer in our community with these great folks.

I know why I joined, and am active in, my volunteer organization, but this issue of *Small Craft Advisory* focusing on volunteers made me want to research volunteerism in general.

I found out that there are volumes and volumes written on the subject of volunteers, volunteer management, why people volunteer, and the benefits of volunteering. Volunteerism is big in America. We have been called "a nation of joiners" (Tocqueville). I love how warmly Erma Bombeck put it:

*Volunteers are the only human beings on the face of the earth who reflect this nation's compassion, unselfish caring, patience, and just plain love for one another.*

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, approximately 62.8 million people volunteered in 2010, just over 26 percent of our population. Women are slightly more likely than men to volunteer. The median of hours volunteered annually is 52, with 28 percent of volunteers spending 100-499 hours per year. Yes, statistics are a little dry, so take a look at the heart of the word itself: The Latin root for volunteer comes from "free will" and from the word volo, or, "I wish". Volunteers say, "I wish' to make a difference!"

It is very satisfying to volunteer and work with so many others, from a variety of organizations, who volunteer for recreational boating safety. Even paid professionals also volunteer countless hours at safety fairs, schools and other community events. I'm proud to belong to a national organization that has promoted safe boating for over 70 years. I'm proud of my own flotilla's 53 continuous years of service, teaching

“Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in.”  
Anonymous

thousands of classes, giving tens of thousands of vessel safety checks and being a community's resource for boating education. But we're just one teeny speck. Mother Teresa said, "The ocean is made of drops." My flotilla is but one drop. Together, we're the ocean, and there is enormous gratification knowing we're saying "I wish" together.

This quote from Antoine de Saint-Exupery really sums up why I continue to volunteer:

*If you want to build a ship, don't drum up people together to collect wood and don't assign them tasks and work, but rather teach them to long for the endless immensity of the sea.*

Thank you to all of you who've given me that vision, and may we continue to provide that longing to future generations of boating safety volunteers.\*

# Rely on us to reduce your costs.

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small craft advisory

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## 2011 Recreational Boating Safety Calendar

### May 21

Inflatable Life Jacket World  
Record Day  
<http://www.ReadySetInflate.com>  
[outreach@safeboatingcouncil.org](mailto:outreach@safeboatingcouncil.org)  
703.361.4294

### 21-27

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

### June 4-12

National Fish & Boating Week  
<http://www.takemefishing.org>

### 5-8

Western States Boating  
Administrators Association  
Annual Meeting  
Las Vegas, Nevada  
[http://bit.ly/\\_wsbaa](http://bit.ly/_wsbaa)

### 6-10

National Association of State  
Boating Law Administrators  
National Boating Accident  
Investigation & Analysis – Level 1  
Training  
Dunbar, West Virginia  
<http://www.nasbla.org>  
[sam@nasbla.org](mailto:sam@nasbla.org)  
859.225.9487

### 11

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

### 14-16

National Association of State  
Boating Law Administrators  
Executive Board Meeting  
Santa Fe, New Mexico  
<http://www.nasbla.org>  
[ron@nasbla.org](mailto:ron@nasbla.org)  
859.225.9487

### 24-26

Operation Dry Water  
<http://operationdrywater.org>

### 26-28

Personal Flotation Devices  
Manufacturers Association  
Annual Conference  
St. Petersburg, Florida  
<http://www.pfdma.org>

### July 18-22

National Association of State  
Boating Law Administrators  
New BLA Academy  
Lexington, Kentucky  
<http://www.nasbla.org>  
[ron@nasbla.org](mailto:ron@nasbla.org)  
859.225.9487

### August 24-28

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary  
National Conference  
Charlotte, North Carolina  
<http://www.cgauxa.org>

### September 10-14

National Association of State  
Boating Law Administrators  
Annual Conference  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
<http://www.nasbla.org>  
[tom@nasbla.org](mailto:tom@nasbla.org)  
859.225.9487

### 11-18

United States Power Squadrons  
Governing Board Meeting  
Greensboro, North Carolina  
<http://www.usps.org>

### 30-Oct. 2

American Canoe Association  
National Paddlesports Conference  
Louisville, Kentucky  
<http://www.americancanoe.org>  
[aca@americancanoe.org](mailto:aca@americancanoe.org)  
540.907.4460

### October 26-29

US Sailing  
Annual Meeting  
Annapolis, Maryland  
<http://www.ussailing.org>  
[karendavidson@ussailing.org](mailto:karendavidson@ussailing.org)  
401.683.0800



### June 24-26, 2011

Be sure to sign up for  
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education and  
enforcement aimed  
at reducing alcohol  
and drug-related  
accidents  
and fatalities.

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