



# WATER SAFETY JOURNAL

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Newsletter of the National Water Safety Congress

## COLD WATER BOOT CAMP USA®

The staff of the project spent all morning moving ice out of the beach area, our “set”, which had moved in overnight in a north east wind. Moving the ice made it possible for our 8 “campers” to enter the water as safely as possible. The NWSC partnered with Play Safe Productions under the Direction of our friend and great Canadian neighbor, Ted Rankine, who collaborated with Dr. “Popsicle” Gordon Geisbrecht.

Cold Water Boot Camp USA® is a multi-faceted educational program intended to inform, motivate and change behavior of the target audience; to present the facts about the dangers of cold water in boating. The “Boot Camp” program is best described as “Fear Factor” meets “Myth Busters” in cold water. But unlike a gasp of fear, if you fall into COLD water...you are literally gasping for life.

While the “Boot Camp” program is designed to “shock” the participant/volunteers, the readers, viewing audience and the web visitors will develop an understanding that cold water can kill and that you should be prepared to avoid it in any way possible. It will also have a very clear survival message: Should you end up in cold water, being prepared by wearing your life jacket can help keep you alive to either effect self rescue or at least survive longer and increase your chance of rescue.

The program was a huge success and a small sample of the video shot was presented at IBWSS a week later. Final editing for the DVD and web site are being completed and will be available through the NWSC soon!

All of our gratitude for keeping this a SAFE project go to Master Chief Nickolas J. Suvak and his staff at USCG

On a very beautiful day in early April, on the south shores of Lake Erie in Fairport Harbor, Ohio, the first ever Cold Water Boot Camp USA® was held. The sun was shining, the birds were singing...a perfect spring-like day for Ohio...and the water temperature, yep, you guessed it...a perfect spring-like Lake Erie Day...38 degrees!!



*The Lake Metroparks and Iowa DNR Rescue Swimmer Team. Special thanks to USCG Air Station Detroit!*



*Chuck Yoest, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, swims in 38 degree water.*

*continued on page 2*

## Meeting Your NWSC Board of Directors for 2008-2010

The election for the Board of Directors was held at the 12th Annual International Boating and Water Safety Summit on April 17, 2008. There were six new candidates applying for seats on the Board, and coincidentally, there were six vacancies left by members stepping down from their positions. It was voted unanimously by the members in attendance to accept all the new candidates to fill the slate.

We welcome the following new members to the Board of Directors: **Mark Brown**, Oklahoma Highway Patrol Boating Safety Education Coordinator; **Madelaine Morgan**, USACE Chief of Safety, Ft. Worth District; **Brian Davidson**, Lake Metroparks Recreation Manager (*new Region 1 Vice President*); **John Annino**, Connecticut Department Wildlife Protection; **Brian Westfall**, USACE DeGray Lake; and **Bruce Rowe**, Forever Resorts.

Some familiar faces and names have moved within the Board to new positions. **John Punkiewicz** is officially the Region 2 Vice President; **Ernie Lentz** is Vice President of Region 3 and will remain Awards Chair; and **Ed Huntsman** will continue to be Vice President of Region 5 but will also be the interim Region 6 Vice President.

**Arlyn Hendricks** will serve a second term as President. **Gary Owen** is the new Executive Vice President. All of our best thoughts are extended to **Paul Kennedy**, deployed overseas, who serves as a Member-at-Large.

Thanks to departing Board Members for their dedication to our mission.

Visit our website for a complete listing of the NWSC Board.

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# Spirit of America at Arkabutla Lake



*Ernie Lentz, Park Ranger and Spirit of America Coordinator (far left), gathers together the participants from the 2008 program.*

This May, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Arkabutla Lake, MS, hosted its second annual "Spirit of America: National Youth Boating and Water Safety Education Program" at the Hernando Point day use area. The Spirit of America Foundation began in 1995 in Lake County, Ohio. The program has grown nationally over the past 14 years from coast to coast in the United States, and for the past two years, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Arkabutla Lake is proud to be the first Corps lake to offer this unique educational opportunity for the area's youth.

This year's participants were students from the Hernando Middle School in DeSoto County, Mississippi. The students first attend the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) Safe Boating Course which consists of 6 – 8 hours of classroom lecture on legal boating requirements. Completing the NASBLA Safe Boating Course will allow participants to obtain their Mississippi Boat Operator's License. Upon successfully completing the NASBLA Safe Boating Course, the students may then participate in the Spirit of America program and take part in hands-on training on how to operate different types of watercraft.

During the Spirit of America program, participants receive specialized instruction including boating and water safety curriculum of at least 6 hours of hands-on training in each vessel including kayaks, canoes, sailboats, jon boats, personal watercraft, and a large vessel curriculum. They were also educated about personal water safety techniques, including proper use of safety equipment, and basic rules of water safety. The program has also been designed to help strengthen participants' self esteem, allow participation in teamwork efforts, and encourage participants to become better stewards of our Nation's water resources while promoting boating and water safety.

The number of participants in a two-year span has more than tripled at Arkabutla Lake. To help meet the demands of this growing program, along with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers personnel, members of the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks and DeSoto County Search and Rescue, served as instructors and safeguards throughout the duration of the program over the past two years. Local contributors included Don Lindholm of Southaven Kawasaki Yamaha Motor Sports, who provided a personal watercraft to be used throughout the program. Dr. Robert Maddux of Hernando Dental Care and the Tate County Rescue Squad contributed monetarily to the program. Local volunteers Mr. John Gardner and Mr. Jim Sislow contributed their time and expertise by teaching the sailing portions of the program.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Arkabutla Lake is taking preventative action in helping eliminate boating and water related accidents. Through Spirit of America, youth can be educated and receive hands-on experience about boating and water safety that will prepare them to become a generation of safe boaters. Spirit programs are also currently operating in Ohio, Iowa, and Tennessee.

## Mark Your Calendars!

**December 1, 2008: Deadline for grassroots grants applications\***

*See the list of 2007 grassroots grants recipients on page 8.*

**December 1, 2008: Deadline for Public Program Award Nominations\***

**December 31, 2008: Deadline for Summit Scholarships\***

**APRIL 19 - 22, 2009: 2009 International Boating and Water Safety Summit (IBWSS)\* in Panama City Beach, Florida**

PLEASE NOTE: 2009 returns to traditional Sunday Opening Schedule

\* Information and applications can be found at: [www.watersafetycongress.org](http://www.watersafetycongress.org)

## Cold Water

continued from page 1

**Mario Vittone, Rescue Swimmer and A-School Instructor from VA, after 23 minutes in the water.**



Station Fairport Harbor, USCG Air Station Detroit and their helo team, the Painesville City, Mentor, Concord, Fairport, Leroy, and Perry Fire and Dive Rescue teams, and Ohio DNR Division of Watercraft, Lake Metroparks and their lifeguard/rescue swimmer teams, University Hospitals, and Iowa DNR Officer Gary Owen.

The NWSC gratefully acknowledges the USCG Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety for supporting this project with a grant.

### Comments from our "campers":

*I was in "GOOD HANDS." I felt safer while participating in this event than sitting in my house watching TV. It was an Impressive Safety Team (rescue swimmers, divers, medical personnel, rescue boats, ambulances, and helicopters). My hat's off to everybody involved. THANKS, EVERYONE!!*

*A very sincere congratulation goes out to you all. The effort you put forth was exceptional; and the volunteer swimmers were no less than amazing. Your efforts are providing a much-needed learning experience from which so many will benefit. This will prevent accidents and save lives.*

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# What's New, What's News

## Arizona

Arizona BLA Kevin Bergersen reports his team is getting ready to review several submissions for more than half a million dollars worth of OUI and Boating Safety grant applications. Additionally, boating safety public information officer Teresa Guillen just launched the agency's boating safety education advertising campaign (see photo of bill board above). Teresa adds that the education class attendance effort joins the OUI campaign which continues across the state in addition to TV, radio and billboard advertising. It's going to be difficult to get to a lake or on the Colorado River in Arizona this summer without being exposed to a boating safety message.



## California

Phaedra Bota and Gloria Chavez report California is gearing up its second *Wear It California* season to see if they can continue their radical improvement on the life jacket wear rate in California. Experiencing a 113% percent increase in year one, year two presents an even greater challenge with the focus shifting to fishermen.



**Tri-State Boating Safety Fair** event coordinator Mari Chavez reports that year five of this now annual event at Lake Havasu continues to be successful. Nevada, California and Arizona combine efforts to contact thousands of boaters as they launch at 16 separate launch ramps on the length of the Colorado River from Lake

Mead to Yuma with a vessel safety check and a bag with various safe boating messages and promotional items. Arizona's *Wear-It Arizona* boat made its first on-the-water appearance during the Tri-State Boating Safety Fair at Lake Havasu.

## Ohio

### *Norm Schultz Departs from Waterways Safety Council*

The Ohio Waterways Safety Council has seen the departure of noted member Norm Schultz, of Mentor, OH, who completed his appointed term at the council's last meeting in Columbus on March 17.

Schultz was first appointed to the Waterways Safety Council in 1982 by former Ohio Governor James A. Rhodes. He was reappointed by Ohio governors to serve successive terms that totaled 26 years of service on the council. The five-member citizen advisory council, appointed by the Governor, provides input on boating issues to the ODNR Division of Watercraft.

Schultz currently serves as executive director of the Boating Associations of Ohio and retired in 2006 from his position as president of the Lake Erie Marine Trades Association.

## Utah

Chris Haller of Utah State Parks and Recreation Department reports they are starting a statewide BUI poster and enforcement campaign. In addition to working cooperatively with the North American Safe Boating Week campaign on *Wear-It UTAH!* the department is evaluating a TYPE IV loaner program at three parks across the State. After the program is evaluated and it's success measured, statewide implementation will be considered.

The department recently completed in-house law enforcement training for boat operators; is implementing the Carrying Passengers for Hire program database; completing two committees directed towards Carrying Passengers for Hire Vessel Inspection criteria; completed seven PSAs to be aired at various radio stations on boating safety; and resumed a weekly boating safety tip of the week on the department's most viewed Internet web page site.

## USCG Auxiliary Gets Good News on the Eve of National Safe Boating Week – sort of...

The good news is deaths resulting from recreational boating accidents fell in 2007, according to figures just announced by the United States Coast Guard Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety. The count dropped from 710 in 2006 to 688 in 2007, the lowest figure since 2004 and third lowest since the Coast Guard began collecting statistics specifically related to recreational boating. "It's gratifying to see the number of deaths going down," commented Rear Admiral James Watson, Director of Prevention Policy. "We hope that this is a result of more boaters adopting responsible boating behaviors, such as making sure that everyone on board is wearing properly-fitting Coast Guard-approved life jackets at all times."

"Receiving this news on the eve of National Safe Boating Week is certainly good news, sort of, since 688 deaths is still 688 deaths too many," said Coast Guard Auxiliary Member Trent Kelly.

The Coast Guard Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety also released figures that revealed while fatalities decreased, injuries, number of accidents, and property damage rose significantly. Injuries rose from 3,474 in 2006 to 3,686 in 2007. Reported recreational boating accidents, which reached 4,967 in 2006, climbed to 5,223. Property damage, which was a record \$43,670,424 in 2006 rose further to \$53,288,858 last year.

Over two-thirds of those killed in boating accidents drowned, and of those, 90 percent were not wearing life jackets.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary is asking all boat owners and operators to take personal responsibility for their own safety and the safety of their passengers.

## Condolences...

Our sympathies to Alan Bland, USACE-Beaver Lake and NWSC Board Member, whose mother has recently passed away.

We also extend deepest sympathy to Jim Richardson of our partner family the National Safe Boating Council who lost his wife Lori on June 3.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Alan and Jim and their families.



The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual  
**International Boating and  
Water Safety Summit**  
*in San Diego!*

The 2008 International Boating and Water Safety Summit, April 16 through 19, brought together people from around the United States and as far away as the United Kingdom to exchange ideas, share knowledge and offer hands-on training in a wide variety of course offerings.

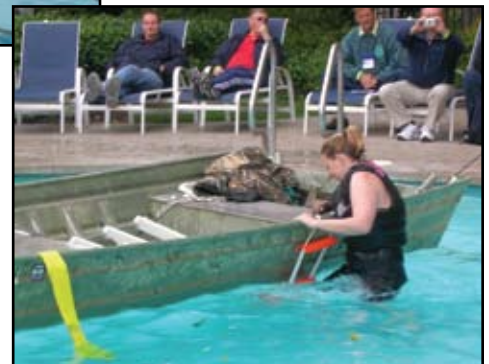
There was a new format for this year with the Opening Reception held on Wednesday evening. This kick-off event opened the Exhibitor Area, letting attendees mingle and network with companies that support all areas of boating and water safety.

The Thursday General Sessions included Guests of Honor James Muldoon, Chairman, National Boating Safety Advisory Council; Lt. John Taylor, America's Waterway Watch; Jeff Hoedt, Chief of the Boating Safety Division, USCG Office of Auxiliary & Boating Safety; Robert Gauvin, USCG Office of Vessel Activities; and Mark Rosenker, Chairman National Transportation Safety Board.

This year our partner in IBWSS, the National Safe Boating Council, is celebrating its 50th anniversary. Ruth Wood, NSBC Chair, and Virgil Chambers, Executive Director, welcomed guests to a Thursday evening reception at USCG Air Station Sector San Diego to recognize NSBC's years of involvement with recreational boating safety.

Friday's full day of breakouts included sessions from six tracks – Education, Outreach and Communication, Risk Management, Hydro Public Safety Program, Law Enforcement, Education/Outreach – plus sessions of Audience Polling that tally survey responses to questions regarding boating and water safety issues and about the Summit itself.

The NWSC held its annual Awards Luncheon (see award recipients on the next page) before the afternoon off-site event at Mission Bay. The event, sponsored by Kawasaki, featured hands-on PWC orientation and demonstrations presented by K-38, and the San Diego



#### Life Guards.

For the first time, the Summit held a day of breakout sessions featuring on- and in-the-water training in the hotel pools as well as two areas of the adjacent marina. These Saturday morning sessions started cool and damp with gray skies but attendees made the most of the events and literally jumped in to participate regardless of the weather.

During an outdoor luncheon presentation, the San Diego Life Guards presented a complete rescue continuum – from rescue swimmer to helicopter rescue – in the bay across from the hotel.

The evening's Awards Banquet included award presentations from the NWSC and NSBC, winners from the PSA/media contest, and a variety of door prize drawings.

The NWSC would like to thank all of our sponsors, exhibitors, and advertisers – we appreciate your support! We also would like to thank all attendees for their participation and their commitment to promoting water safety. We hope you left the Summit with some new ideas to utilize in your program or community. *See you next year in Panama City Beach!*

# 2007 NWSC AWARD WINNERS

## REGION ONE

### Awards of Merit:

Alum Creek Lake Staff, USACE  
Central Ohio Safe Boating Council  
Columbus Sail and Power Squadron  
US Coast Guard Auxiliary, Flotilla 6,  
Division 5, District 9 ER  
Rick Weiler

### Letters of Commendation:

Wanda Butts  
Steven Ketterer  
Robert Ogoreuc  
Spirit of America Foundation  
John Wargo  
SSgt John Schreiner  
Capt. Robert Stanton  
T.O. Robert Ogoreuc  
Ed Leon

## REGION TWO

### Awards of Merit:

Gary Berdinski  
Camp Foster YMCA  
Kaskaskia Mariners Association

### Letters of Commendation:

Scott Cevigny  
Milford Lake's Extreme Outdoor  
Water Festival

## REGION THREE

### Awards of Merit:

Enid Lake Rangers, USACE  
George Birdwell  
Carl McCoy  
Stonney Burke  
Cherokee County Georgia Safe Kids  
Sgt. John R. Anderson  
Grenada Lake Water Safety Team,  
USACE  
Alabama Marine Police & Benjamin  
Russell High School Media Class

### Letters of Commendation:

Benjamin Pitcock  
Desoto County Sheriffs Search &  
Rescue Unit  
Scott Fanning  
Becky Frazier  
Safety on the Blue Water Safety Committee  
Tanya Grant  
Deshea Townsend  
Marcus Johnson  
Julie Parks  
Anita Denton

## REGION FOUR

### Awards of Merit:

DeGray Lake Ranger Water Safety Team,  
USACE

*Nobody's Waterproof Statewide*

*Campaign  
Donna Diane Cook  
Lake Greeson Ranger Water Safety Team,  
USACE*

### Letters of Commendation:

*Donna Hilton  
Dean Roberts  
Aimee Jordan  
Little Rock District Water Safety Team  
Dan Gross*

## REGION FIVE

### Awards of Merit:

*Richard Droesbeke  
David Pffiffner  
Karen Welden*

### Letters of Commendation:

*Aquatic Weed Unit  
David Esparza  
Gail Kaiser  
Sacramento District Water Safety Pirates  
Water Watchers  
Robert Collins  
Kayla Wright  
John Chesshier*

## REGION SIX

### Awards of Merit:

*Bob Kelso  
Dan Gardner  
Ice Harbor Natural Resource Staff,  
USACE  
Myrna Loy-Zolyomi  
Anton Jones*



### REGIONAL AWARDS:

**Region One Award:** New York-Pennsylvania Operations & Maintenance Section,  
US Army Corps of Engineers

**Region Two Award:** Allstate Insurance Company

**Region Three Award:** Great Lakes & Ohio River Division, Water Safety Council,  
US Army Corps of Engineers

**Region Four Award:** Abiquiu Lake Project Office, US Army Corps of Engineers

**Region Five Award:** Colorado River Law Enforcement Association (CRLEA) BLAs  
Kevin Bergersen, Ray Tsuneyoshi, Fred Messmann, Dave Harris

**Region Six Award:** Dave Ayres

**NATIONAL AWARD:** Virgil Chambers, National Safe Boating Council

**PRESIDENT'S AWARD:** Eugene Goff, US Army Corps of Engineers

**LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD\*:** Wayne M. Freed, retired, US Corps of Engineers,  
Safety Office - Omaha District.

*\*This new award recognizes an outstanding individual whose spirit and demonstrated leadership throughout their career has inspired others and positively influenced the water safety community.*

# IBWSS 2008 Receives a Hawaiian Blessing

During the General Session on April 17, Cal Boating Director, **Ray Tusneyoshi**, a native Hawaiian introduced **Tom Pohaku Stone** from Kanalu K38 to the membership in attendance. Tom



entered with a traditional and powerful message in his native Hawaiian language.

The members turned and watched as he moved forward from the rear of the room, gathering with him the blessings and permission for all of us involved in water safety, to go forth and to remember our own heritage for the purpose of saving lives.

That is precisely what brings people together at the annual IBWSS. Informa-

tion, data and ideas are exchanged at IBWSS to enhance boating and water safety resources for professional and recreational enthusiasts whether from paddle craft, sail or motorized vessels. The attendees care passionately about their work in boating and water safety.

## Kanalu K38 Blessing to the people:

The Hawaiian people have always been aware of their ocean environment and its many moods and rhythms. Ka Makani 'ula o ke kai - the red wind that belongs to the sea. What this means is that the blood that flows through us is the wind of our ancestors who gave up the land to become a sea going people of this great world we call home - we are all one people of this canoe.

Our ancestors embraced the knowledge of the gods to care for the land and the sea by identifying and maintaining a harmonious relationship with

their fragile island resources. From this concept of Malama our kupuna established the foundation of our culture and our relationship to the ocean.

Though similar in some ways to other Pacific island cultures, our unique culture remains very different from any other Pacific isle peoples. If we do not continue to Malama then we will have failed as people and we will stand to lose our living culture.

Malama Kai - Our precious marine ecosystems, including important fishing grounds, coral reefs, beaches, and surf sites are being impacted, but we are here to care for it. The sea is a lei around our islands in the sea of which our ancestors emerged from and had respect for this sea, and the aspects of their well-being was reliant upon it. Malama kai - care for the sea and take from it only what is needed and to respect its godly power.

*Mahalo*

## How Okoboji Rescues Sailors

by Phil Petersen

A few years ago more than one Okoboji Yacht Club member (Iowa) was heard to say "When I capsize I don't want the Lake Patrol to help me, because they don't know how to help."

It was statements like that which encouraged the Iowa Great Lakes Water Safety Council to partner with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (Lake Patrol) and the Okoboji Yacht Club Sailing School to teach Lake Patrol officers how to deal with capsized sailboats. It is now an annual event.

The Okoboji capsized sailboat training is a one day event held at the sailing school facility on West Lake Okoboji. There are two hours of classroom training in the morning including a PowerPoint presentation which explains sailboat racing, the five different types of sailboats racing on Okoboji, and the various rescue techniques.

The simplest rescues are when the sailboat mast is lying on the water and all the rescuer needs to do is start the mast moving upwards to a vertical position. More complex rescues deal with sailboats that have gone "turtle" (the mast is sticking straight down). With a "turtled" boat there is a two-step process of first bringing the boat to the mast lying on the



water position and second lifting the mast so the boat goes upright.

When the wind is strong, brewing large waves, one rescue boat is sometimes not enough. It is under these conditions two rescue boats are required. The first rescue boat slowly tows the sailboat into the wind and the second boat rotates the sailboat to the upright position.

The two-hour afternoon session is on-the-water. First the Lake Patrol officer is given a sailboat ride. Possibly - their first time in a sailboat. They may also have a turn at skippering a sailboat - not unlike your first time trying to ride a bike. Once the officers have some sailing knowledge about sailing, the sailing school instructors take different types of sailboats out and - tip them over. The officers start by righting a sailboat that has its mast lying on the water. Once they



have mastered that technique they are advanced to the "turtled" boat. This takes a little practice, but it can be learned fairly quickly based on the classroom training.

The results have been impressive. The sailors welcome help from Lake Patrol officers and the officers have gained confidence that when confronted with a capsized sailboat they know how to handle the situation.

To probe further check webpage: [www.watersafetycouncil.org/sailing](http://www.watersafetycouncil.org/sailing)

Lake Okoboji is also home to our Iowa Spirit of America program.

# 80 Million Boaters Recruited in Terror War

## Awareness program akin to neighborhood watch is being launched

WASHINGTON - As boating season opens, the Bush administration wants to enlist the country's 80 million recreational boaters to help reduce the chances that a small boat could deliver a nuclear or radiological bomb somewhere along the country's 95,000 miles of coastline and inland waterways.

According to an April 23 intelligence assessment obtained by The Associated Press, "The use of a small boat as a weapon is likely to remain al-Qaida's weapon of choice in the maritime environment, given its ease in arming and deploying, low cost, and record of success."

While the United States has so far been spared this type of strike in its own waters, terrorists have used small boats to attack in other countries.

The millions of dinghies, fishing boats and smaller cargo ships that ply America's waterways are not nationally regulated as they buzz around ports, oil tankers, power plants and other potential terrorist targets. The government defines small boats as any vessel less than 300 tons.

This could allow terrorists in small boats to carry out an attack similar to the USS Cole bombing, says Coast Guard Commandant Adm. Thad Allen. That 2000 attack killed 17 American sailors in Yemen when terrorists rammed a dinghy packed with explosives into the destroyer. "There is no intelligence right now that there's a credible risk" of this type of attack, Allen says. "But the vulnerability is there."

To reduce the potential for such an attack in the United States, the Department of Homeland Security has developed a new strategy intended to increase security by enhancing safety standards.

### Neighborhood watch program – at sea

The plan asks states to develop and enforce safety standards for recreational boaters and asks them to look for and report suspicious behavior on the water – much like a neighborhood watch program. The government will also look to develop technology that will help detect dangerous materials and other potential warning signs.

The United States has spent billions of dollars constructing elaborate defenses against the monster cargo ships that could be used by terrorists, including strict regulations for containers and shipping.

"When that oil tanker is coming from the Middle East, we know everything about it before it gets here," said John Fetterman, deputy chief of Maine's Marine Patrol and President of NASBLA. But when it comes to small boats, he said, "nobody knows a lot about them."

Initially the government considered creating a federal license for recreational

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The only way to police the waterfront is to get as many of the participants who are part of that community to be essentially on your side.

– Stephen Flynn,  
maritime security expert

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boat operators, but that informal proposal was immediately shot down by boating organizations. Coast Guard and homeland security officials have toured the country in the past year to sound out the boating industry and its enthusiasts. While the government insists there will be no federal license, the strategy suggests that the government consider registering and regulating recreational boats.

Fetterman and his officers regularly get intelligence reports about unknown or unrecognized boaters taking pictures of a bridge or measurements of a dam. But he says there just aren't enough officers on the water to address every report.

The only way to police the waterfront, says maritime security expert Stephen Flynn, "is to get as many of the participants who are part of that community to be essentially on your side." Flynn, a fellow with the Council on Foreign Relations, says treating boaters as allies rather than as a threat will go a long way.

Small boats are not the top terrorist threat facing the United States, officials say. But the nation shouldn't wait to be attacked, said Vayl Oxford, the head of homeland security's Domestic Nuclear Detection Office. "We just cannot allow ourselves to get to the point where we're managing consequences," he said.

Oxford's office is leading two pilot programs that train and arm harbor patrols with portable radiological and nucle-

ar detection equipment, starting with Seattle's Puget Sound. A similar program for San Diego is in the planning stages.

Many local departments across the country have been concerned with the small boat threat. The New York Police Department has scuba teams and marine units equipped with radiation detection that patrol New York waters. But few departments across the country have similar resources.

That is why the strategy is intended to create a layered defense that would create a national federal standard to operate a boat, Allen says.

The Coast Guard will work with states to establish minimum safety standards and ways to enforce the new rules. That may include requiring boat operators to have a copy of the safety certification on board with them and a piece of identification that links them to the certificate. That's important, security officials say, because currently there is no uniform requirement for pleasure boaters to have identification on board with them on the water.

The new strategy will not only create more awareness on the water, but additional state safety requirements could have other benefits: keeping boats shipshape and having their inspections up to date; more lifesaving equipment on board; and possibly fewer drunken people operating boats, said California's homeland security adviser Matthew Bettenhausen.

In 2006, there were 710 boating deaths, more than 3,400 injuries and close to \$44 million worth of property damage, according to the latest statistics from the Coast Guard. Of the 710 deaths, 70 percent occurred on boats operated by someone who did not have boating safety instruction.

"To the extent you can limit those kinds of problems, that means there's more resources that can be focused on the terrorism-prevention mission," Bettenhausen said.

Allen says the boater that is on the water every weekend knows where people fish and knows when a boat near a piece of critical infrastructure looks out of place.

"The small-boat community is not the problem," he said. But he added that with this strategy, they would now be part of the solution."

## Welcome aboard the Spirit of America to Tennessee!!

Spirit of America is off and running in the state of Tennessee, the fourth state to offer the Spirit of America programs. All of our thanks and Fair Winds wishes to the Board and Staff of the Joe C. Davis YMCA Camp of Middle Tennessee for hosting a Spirit program for their state. Special thanks especially to Betsy Woods and Ed Carter of the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency for getting the boats floating in their neighborhoods! The program could have not been opened without the assistance from the US Coast Guard Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety who provided a grant to fund, in part, the TN program. We are honored and humbled to be a part of the great things happening in Tennessee!

The Spirit programs were initiated in 1995. Since that time we have been fortunate to have had over 5500 young people share excitement and growth through our programs. We now have programs located in Ohio, Iowa, Mississippi, and Tennessee with many more on the way!

Our children and their families learn by doing, learn through hands-on training, and by taking responsibility for themselves and their ship mates. As *we all know, hands on experiences in education provides the foundation and a desire for future learning.*

Our program introduces young persons to several different types and sizes of watercraft and recreational water activities, all of which nurture responsible behavior. Spirit of America provides an ideal environment for the students to learn, react, and develop lifelong learning skills and ambitions. Based around a hands-on program, the Spirit of America empowers our youth, in a non-traditional classroom setting, to dare to dream, while meeting the underlying goals of the foundation for developing self esteem, teamwork, safe seamanship, and boating and water safety practices, and responsible behavior in our young adults.

The greatest gift we can provide for your future generations is hope and promise of lives to be lived to their full potential in a sustainable environment. Spirit of America does both and believes in... "No Child Left at the Dock!"

Visit the TN program at [www.ymcacampwidjwagan.org](http://www.ymcacampwidjwagan.org)

## Who's Who in Water Safety: Awards and Recognition



### NWSC Grassroots Grants Recipients 2008

Lorain Boating Education Inc. – Avon, OH  
Lake of the Ozarks Water Safety Council (LOTOWSC) – Osage Beach, MO  
Safe Kids Lakeshore – Holland, MI  
Extreme Aquatic Team – Edmond, OK  
Lorain Sailing and Yacht Club – Lorain, OH  
Phoenix Sail & Power Squadron – Peoria, AZ  
American Red Cross, Central WV Chapter – Beckley, WV  
Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp – Kalispell, MT  
Iowa Great Lakes Water Safety Council – Spirit Lake, IA  
Muskingum County Community Foundation – Zanesville, OH  
Safe Kids Cherokee County – Canton, GA  
Lake Erie Marine Trades Association – Westlake, OH  
Lake Erie Safe Boating Council – Westlake, OH  
Camp Foster YMCA – Spirit Lake, IA  
Central Ohio State Boating Council – Columbus, OH  
United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 63 – Newport News, VA  
Lake Thunderbird Educational Foundation – Edmond, OK  
Girl Scouts of Michigan Trails – Grand Rapids, MI  
SE (SEMO) Regional Water Safety Council – Wappapello, MO  
Friends of Barren River Lake – Glasgow, KY  
North Central Ohio Safe Boating Council – Butler, OH  
Friends of Barren River Lake – Glasgow, KY  
Lake Metroparks – Kirtland, OH  
Lake Parks Foundation – Kirtland, OH  
Hamot Medical Center – Erie, PA  
Genessee Retreat – Greenville, CA  
Mendocino County Water Safety Coalition – Fort Bragg, CA  
The Neighborhood Leadership Institute – Cleveland, OH

*Thank you for making water safety a priority!*

### Farewell from Mac Wimbish

NWSC recently received the news that our former Region 3 Vice President and former Awards Chair is retiring this June. Mac writes:

"After 38 years with the Corps of Engineers, 34 of those years in Safety, it's time to end this leg of the journey. I will retire effective 03 June 08. Over the past few years people would ask me when I would retire. My standard response would be that I wanted to retire while I could still program my VCR. I made that comment a few months ago to a young engineer, who replied, "you still have a VCR?" I knew it was time.

To say that I'll miss being here and being a part of this team is such an understatement. Over the past 34+ decades I've had a chance to work with some remarkable and talented people, and participate in many worthwhile endeavors.

To those of you that I've worked with through the years, I'll miss you. Because you have all been so important to me, I hesitate to mention anyone in particular.

I hope to make myself available as a reemployed annuitant to work on special projects and for training, so perhaps our paths will cross in the future. I hope so.

This isn't a valedictorian speech, just a simple farewell. You know what your challenges are and you have the talents and skills to see them through. Look for the value in what you're doing, and if it's hard to find – question what you're doing.

My best wishes to you all. Be safe - hold the course - take care of the team."

*Best wishes for a happy and active retirement to you, Mac!*