



WATER SAFETY JOURNAL

February 2009 • Vol. 25, No. 1

Newsletter of the National Water Safety Congress

**Registration Deadlines
are fast approaching!**

2009 INTERNATIONAL BOATING & WATER SAFETY SUMMIT



**PANAMA CITY BEACH
~ FLORIDA ~
SUNDAY, APRIL 19 THRU
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22**

“Early” Discount Registration Deadline: March 26, 2009
Hotel Reservations to receive IBWSS rate: March 26, 2009

Final Advance IBWSS Registration Deadline: April 10, 2009
After April 10, all IBWSS registrations must be processed on-site

Registration information is available on our web site www.watersafetycongress.org and on our co-host’s site the National Safe Boating Council www.safeboatingcouncil.org.



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Grass Roots Grants Awarded for 2009

The National Water Safety Congress awarded 45 grants to organizations in ten states totaling close to \$43,000. Grass roots grants applications were due by December 31. Information can be found on the NWSC web site.

Organization	State	Awarded
Water Watcher’s at Phoenix Children’s Hospital	AZ	\$750.00
Banner Children’s Hospital @ BDMC	AZ	\$1,000.00
Children’s Medical Center	TX	\$1,500.00
Iowa Great Lakes Water Safety Council	IA	\$1,450.00
Lake Thunderbird Educational Foundation	OK	\$1,000.00
Lake Metroparks	OH	\$796.00
Lake Metroparks	OH	\$895.00
Lake Metroparks	OH	\$750.00
Southeast Missouri (SEMO) Regional Water Safety Council, Inc.	MO	\$1,225.00
AL Children’s Waterway Safety Task Force	AL	\$1,000.00
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Flotilla 63	OR	\$1,100.98
Erie Safe Boating Task Force	PA	\$1,200.00
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Flotilla 51	OR	\$650.00
Safe Kids Kitsap County	WA	\$1,300.00
Lake Erie Marine Trades Association Educational Foundation	OH	\$1,500.00
Lake Erie Safe Boating Council	OH	\$1,000.00
Mentor Safety Village	OH	\$760.00

continued on page 8

NEWS FROM THE OFFICE

The ice is currently not to be seen from the office windows on the beautiful southern shores of Lake Erie. I understand that our friends and partners in Canada have it in their back yards for a little while. So, can our water and boating recreation season be far behind? For those of us a little more “hearty” I doubt it! The temperature of the office...brisk! And yes, we do have heat.

We are all so pleased to announce that our newest staff member, **Brendan O'Donnell** has joined the team on a permanent basis. Brendan graduated from Case Western Reserve University with a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering in December of 2008 and came to the office as our Executive Assistant at that very same time. His energetic and ambitious spirit has brightened the gray winter here. He has taken on our web site, so be sure to keep your eyes peeled for the new look and all of the new news which will be easily accessible to all of our partners and those looking for answers to their questions on all forms of recreational and commercial water safety and education concerns. Brendan was a huge help as we sent six new grant applications to the United States Coast Guard Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety, for the first time electronically! An interesting experience and one I am happy to report ended better than expected because of his expertise. There are several projects in which his education will serve the Congress greatly, in particular, the Continuation of Barge Lighting and the creation of our “cold water tank” which will be used in many educational applications. Brendan is a certified life guard and as an Eagle Scout has instructed aquatics programs for the Boy Scouts for many years. His experience in this field will be very valuable as we adapt the Spirit of America Youth and Community Education program curriculum in outlying states and in particular for camp programs. Brendan will be one busy Executive Assistant. Welcome aboard Brendan!

Speaking of **Spirit of America**, we are continuing discussion with potential facilitating organizations in **New Mexico** and **Kentucky**. Be sure to keep track of where the new programs will be opening. Hopefully Spirit will be coming to a neighborhood near you soon! The Spirit of America web site is undergoing major changes, special thanks to Tauri Duer. The web site for Spirit is: www.spiritofAmerica95.org



Virgil Chambers, NSBC Executive Director, points out where grass roots grant funds are making a difference.

Congratulations to our **Grass Roots Grants** awardees. Please see our list of the 2009 awards in this issue of the Journal. Take time to visit these programs if they are in your area. The organizations who apply for these grants do amazing work on the grass roots levels. Not only are they following many of the objectives of the Recreational Boating Safety Strategic Plan, they have programs that are easily adaptable in other areas of the country.

continued on page 3

Mark Your Calendars!

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

* Go to www.watersafetycongress.org for applications and information.

February 23-24, 2009
8th Annual National Drowning Prevention Symposium
Miami, FL • www.ndpa.org



Are you ready for cold water?
Get a look at **Cold Water Boot Camp at IBWSS 2009**. Cold Water Boot Camp USA DVDs are still available; call 440-209-9805 for information.

WATER SAFETY JOURNAL
Vol. 25, No. 1 February 2009

A publication of the National Water Safety Congress, a tax-exempt, nonprofit, public service organization dedicated to water safety.

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Send address changes to journal@watersafetycongress.org

News

continued from page 2

Travel has been a major part of our winter activities. Not only have we been busy with boat shows and making inroads for Spirit of America to be launched in several new states, we have been out with partners from the **National Safe Boating Council**. Thank you for inviting us to NSBC's annual winter meeting in Amelia Island, Florida, where a great deal was accomplished in a beautiful setting. At 18 degrees both nights, we were still 38 degrees warmer than when we left the Lake Erie shoreline!



Scouting for the 2011 Summit site.

The week after the NSBC meeting the **International Boating and Water Safety Summit Advisory Team** went in search of a location for the 2011 site. We visited Nashville where we were joined in the effort by "locals" **Betsy Woods** and **Ed Carter**. Thanks so much to them, and to the folks at the **Joe C. Davis YMCA Camp**, for their time and for being such gracious hosts. After Nashville we were off to Savannah, Georgia, another beautiful site.

Thanks there to our hosts with the Convention and Visitors Bureau and "locals" from the Duer family who provided a great look at Savannah and the outlying areas available for our on water activities. Special thanks to Marty Law who provides us with the excellent choices for each Summit site we evaluate. We will keep you informed about our decision for the 2011 Summit. Our 2010 Summit will be held in Daytona Beach, Florida. Keep in mind the 2009 Summit will be here in a very short month and a half. **HAVE YOU REGISTERED FOR THE 2009 SUMMIT in Panama City Beach???**

The end of February will be spent in Miami Beach, Florida, at the **National Drowning Prevention Alliance Conference**. We hope to see many of our partners there. We head to Washington in March for a grants meeting with the Coast Guard. April will find us with all of you, we hope, in Panama City Beach.

Don't forget the great pre-summit courses that are being offered:

- **National Water Safety Congress:**
 - Personal Watercraft Course
 - Cold Water Immersion / Cold Water Boot Camp Course
 - First Responders Course

Call 440-209-9805 for registration information.
- **National Safe Boating Council:**
 - Instructor Certification Course
 - Close Quarter Boat Handling

Call 703-361-4292 for registration information.

Finally, please keep in mind that as the ice begins to thaw and families and friends get back outdoors and head to the water, the importance of educating our communities about the inherent dangers of cold water becomes a top priority. **Cold Water Boot Camp USA** has been widely accepted in all of our states and in six other countries as an excellent educational tool. Please let us know if you need another copy for your communities, many of which are showing the program on their community cable networks. We are all looking forward to getting the life jackets back on, getting back in the "classroom" and enjoying the water in 2009!

A Note From Board Member Brenda Warren:

The time has come for me to say my farewells to my many friends and colleagues. While many of you attended my retirement luncheon in August at our safety workshop in San Antonio, my last day was December 30th.

I depart with very mixed emotions. I have served the USACE for over 25 years and in that time I have had many varied and rewarding experiences, all of which have made me a better person and more diverse safety and health professional. I will miss the daily challenges but more importantly I will miss you, my many friends and co-workers. However, I will never be more than a phone call or e-mail away. Feel free to call upon me if I can be of assistance and please keep in touch.

I will especially miss my co-workers in CESO as well as Jerry Haskins and Gary King. You have been a great group of friends to work with and I will always remember my time in HQ with great fondness. Together we did make a significant and positive impact on safety and health and I am very proud to have served with you.

I look forward to new challenges and relaxed time with Randy. We have lived apart for nearly 13 years so I could pursue career advancement and so Ran could remain in his beloved hometown. We are truly enjoying our time together and looking forward to many fun adventures in the future. If you find yourself in the Huntington, WV area, please give us a call, we would greatly enjoy seeing and visiting with you.

I also plan to work on a periodic basis so I can keep my mind and SO skills fresh. I don't yet know exactly what that entails but would like to continue my association with USACE as an annuitant and plan to also look into annuitant work with FEMA. In addition to these endeavors, I have maintained my membership on the Board of Directors of the NWSC and look forward to being even more active in boating and water safety activities.

Rather than saying "goodbye", I simply say "see you down the road" as I hope that is the case. I wish all of you the very best in whatever endeavors you pursue.

God Bless you all.
Brenda Warren
E-mail: WABBUD1@AOL.COM

EVENTS & INFORMATION FOR IBWSS 2009

Sunday, April 19

10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Summit Registration Office Open
Media contest entries accepted in the office during registration hours until noon on Tuesday.

11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Exhibitor Set-Up

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
OPENING RECEPTION
CELEBRATING THE 13TH
ANNUAL IBWSS
EXHIBITS OPEN

Monday, April 20

7:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Indoor and Outdoor Exhibitor Areas Open

OPENING

8:00 - 8:45 a.m.
Color Guard/Presentation of Colors
Invocation
Greeting and Welcome
Recognition of Invited Honored Guests

GENERAL SESSIONS

8:45 - 11:45 a.m.
Presentations and tentative list of guest speakers including but not limited to:

Adm. Thad Allen, USCG Commandant (*Invited*)

MG Don T. Riley, Deputing Commanding General, USACE (*Invited*)

James Muldoon, Chairman, National Boating Safety Advisory Council

Guest of Honor, National Transportation Safety Board (*Invited*)

Cold Water Boot Camp USA and Canada



PRE-CONFERENCE TRAINING/CERTIFICATION*

NSBC/NASBLA Instructor Training Course –

Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, April 15-17 – 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

NSBC/Close Quarter Boat Handling –

Thursday and Friday, April 16-17 – 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

NWSC/PWC Course –

Thursday and Friday, April 16-17 – 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

NWSC/Cold Water Boot Camp USA –

Friday, April 17 – 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

NWSC/Open Water Rescue for First Responders –

Friday, April 17 – 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

**Additional fees required for the above training courses. Please be sure to send registration and separate payment to the presenting entity.*

Information is available at www.watersafetycongress.org and www.safeboatingcouncil.org

12:00 noon - 1:30 p.m.

LUNCH AND DEMO

American Canoe Association Canoe and Kayak Rescue Techniques at the Reflections Pool

GENERAL SESSIONS continue

1:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Presentations and tentative list of guest speakers including but not limited to:

“Got ‘Wear It?’” with panel members from NSBC, USACE and Wear It Ohio, Florida, Texas, Tennessee and California

Kayak Giveaway!!

4:30 - 6:00 p.m.

Paddlesport Safety Meeting
FERC/Hydropower Group Meeting

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

INTERNATIONAL LUAU

Cocktails and light hors d’oeuvres at the Reflections Pool

12:00 noon is deadline for PSA/ media contest entries.

7:00 - 11:50 a.m.

Indoor and Outdoor Exhibit Areas Open

CONCURRENT BREAKOUT TRACKS

You may select from these seven tracks:

1. Education
2. Outreach and Communication
3. Risk Management
4. Hydro/Public Safety
5. Law Enforcement
6. Boating Education Award Winning Programs
7. Audience Polling

Breakout classes are scheduled to be 50 minutes in length with short breaks:

8:00 - 8:50 a.m.

9:00 - 9:50 a.m.

10:00 - 10:50 a.m.

11:00 - 11:50 a.m.



Tuesday, April 21

7:00 - 7:50 a.m.

Continental Breakfast

7:00 - 12:00 noon

Summit Registration Office Open

EVENTS & INFORMATION FOR IBWSS 2009

12:00 noon - 1:30 p.m.

NATIONAL WATER SAFETY CONGRESS AWARDS LUNCHEON

Award recipients/guests, by invitation only.

1:30 - 4:30 p.m.

★ **"I DID IT!!!"**

Beach and Pool Activities for All Participants!

Learn a lot and have a lot of fun!

Activities include: Sailing, PWC, Rowing, Kayak Fishing and more fun and informative activities that will have you saying, "I Did It!"

Wednesday, April 22

7:00 - 7:50 a.m.

Continental Breakfast

7:00 - 12:00 noon

Summit Registration Office Open

7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Powered and non-powered watercraft displays and demonstrations

8:00 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.

SKILL-BASED DEVELOPMENT CLASSES HANDS-ON AND IN or ON THE WATER CONCURRENT BREAKOUT TRACKS

Classes will be held at pool, beach and dock locations.

You will be able to participate in the activities to your level of comfort, please dress appropriately, or come to watch and learn.

Participating organizations include: National Water Safety Congress; National Safe Boating Council; U.S. Sailing; BoatU.S.; Spirit of America; American Canoe Association; St. Brendan's; and National Drowning Prevention Alliance.

Some activities/topics are: Close Quarter Boat Handling; Inflatable vs. Inherent Life Jackets for Law Enforcement; PWC Trials with New Braking System; Law Enforcement Equipment information and demos. *Some classes will repeat during afternoon sessions.*

The New Jersey State Police – Open Water Rescue, Ocean City Life Guards, San Diego Life Guards, Lake

Metroparks, Eckerd College, and the Panama City Beach Coast Guard, Navy and Dive Team members (invited) will present a "From the Great Lakes to the Gulf, From the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean" Rescue Continuum.

SKILL-BASED CLASS TIMES:

8:00 - 9:15 a.m.

9:30 - 10:45 a.m.

11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

12:30 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.

OUTDOOR LUNCHEON AT THE PAVILLION

SKILL-BASED CLASSES continue

1:30 - 2:45 p.m.

3:00 - 4:15 p.m.

6:00 - 6:30 p.m.

Reception/Networking

6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

AWARDS BANQUET – POSTER/PSA CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCED, PRIZE DRAWINGS

Summit Registration

Please complete and submit your registration to **IBWSS, 470 Olde Worthington Rd., Suite 200, Westerville, OH 43082, or fax the form to 614-410-6708.** To receive the discounted pre-registration fee of **\$395.00**, registration form must be postmarked or faxed no later than **Thursday, March 26, 2009.** Registrations received **after April 10, 2009** will be processed on site. On site registration fee is **\$495.00.**

Lodging

Overlooking beautiful St. Andrews Bay, the **Bay Point Marriott Golf Resort & Spa**, 4200 Marriott Dr., Panama City Beach, FL 32408, will serve as the site for the 2009 Summit. Individuals are responsible for making their own room reservation directly with the Bay Point Marriott Resort **prior to March 26, 2009 to receive the special Summit rate.** Res-

ervations can be made directly by calling 850-236-6000 or 800-644-2650.

Please reserve your room as soon as possible. Be sure to say you are with the **International Boating & Water Safety Summit.** All reservations must be guaranteed with a credit card. Summit room rate is \$125.00 per diem (plus tax) if made by March 26, 2009. **Room rates and availability cannot be guaranteed after March 26, 2009.**

Air Transportation

The Bay Point Marriott Resort is located near the Panama City Beach Airport; Pensacola Airport is approx. a 2 hour commute; and Ft. Walton Beach Airport is approx. a 1 hour commute.

Name Badges and Wristbands

You will receive **one name badge** and

one wristband with every paid registration for the Summit. You **must** wear/present **both** items for access to meetings, breakout sessions, exhibitor areas, all meals and refreshment breaks sponsored by IBWSS, and free water transportation.

Suggested Attire

The average daily temperature in Panama City Beach is 78°F, water temps of 72-75°. Keep in mind that the conference and meeting rooms can be quite cool so a sweater or light jacket is recommended.

Summit Attire Protocol

Sunday Evening Reception: Business Attire

Monday General Session Opening: Business / Business Casual

Monday Evening Luau: Luau/Beach Wear

Tuesday Sessions: Business Casual

Tuesday NWSC Awards Luncheon: Business Attire

Tuesday Afternoon: Casual, Water Sports Attire/Wetsuit

continued on page 6

New Year, New Boating Laws

The new year brings with it new laws, including those governing boating. Here's a sampling of some of the new regulations that will affect boaters this year:

- In New Hampshire, a new speed limit went into place on Lake Winnepesaukee. The new law imposes limits of 45 mph during the day and 25 mph at night for a two-year evaluation period.
- In South Carolina, a state law that went into effect in December makes it a crime to abandon a watercraft on public lands or waters for more than 45 days. If a boat has been moored, stranded, wrecked or is sinking or sunk and has been left unattended, the state can remove it at the owner's expense. Penalties include fines between \$1,000 and \$5,000 or up to 30 days in jail.

Also in South Carolina, the price of watercraft and outboard decals and duplicate registration cards increased from \$1 to \$5. Late fees of up to \$30 can be charged to those who don't register within 60 days of purchase.
- In North Carolina, charter fishing-boat operators are now allowed to purchase a block of 10, 10-day coastal recreational fishing licenses for their customers.
- By June, New Jersey boaters will be required to pass a boating safety course approved by the state's marine police.

Show your love beyond Valentine's Day!

from the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary



With "love in the air" and spring and the boating season just around the corner, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary offered some Valentine's Day gift ideas for boaters. But these gifts will help your friends and loved ones stay safe all year long.

One of the best gift ideas for boaters is to sign them up for a boating education course. Knowledge is power, and it has been statistically shown that boaters who have taken a safety class are far less likely to be involved in a boating mishap or fatality.

The start of the traditional boating season is just a couple of months away, so now is a good time to schedule a free Vessel Safety Check (VSC). A VSC is a valuable gift for boaters that doesn't cost anything but time.

The "switch to digital" even affects boaters. Starting February 1, 2009, the Coast Guard no longer monitors analog distress signals transmitted from the older Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRBs). A new digital EPIRB is another great Valentine's Day gift idea.

Other great gift ideas to help keep boaters safe include:

- Sleek, light-weight, and comfortable inflatable life jackets
- A carbon monoxide detector
- Emergency signaling kits – flares, signal mirror, whistle, etc.
- Kill switch leash – kills the engine if the boater falls overboard
- Up-to-date navigational charts and/or a handheld GPS unit
- Navigation tools and calculators
- Hand-held VHF marine radio with extra batteries

The Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary recommend these gifts, for Valentine's Day or any day, to save lives and reduce mishaps on America's waterways.



IBWSS

continued from page 5

Wednesday: Casual; Water Sports Attire/Wetsuit/Footwear recommended for hands-on outdoor breakout programs
Wednesday Awards Dinner: Business Dress

Printed, Video & Radio PSA Contest

Public Service Announcements (PSA) and printed materials carrying boating and water safety messages are always of interest at the Summit. You are invited to bring or send your organization's favorite video and/or radio PSA and printed pieces (two copies of each item). Printed items will be displayed. Videos must be in DVD or CD format only. Print material or other items may be any size. If you are unable to bring the entries, they must be sent to the Bay Point Marriott Resort c/o IBWSS by April 15, 2009. Please contact Eugene Goff at 620-364-8614 or email at Eugene.Goff@usace.army.mil for more information on the PSA Contest.

Categories: Giveaways/Handouts, Posters/Signs, Booklets/Brochures, Audio PSAs/Video PSAs, Electronic Education

Judging Criteria: Clarity of message, uniqueness/innovation, boating/water safety message, easily modified so adaptable nationwide.

Winners will be recognized at the Awards Banquet with 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places. Deadline for entries is 12:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 21, 2009.

Area Highlights

A myriad of attractions are available in the Panama City Beach area – dining, shopping, outdoor recreation and leisure opportunities including:

- On-site spa and salon at Bay Point Marriott Resort
- On-site rental of PWCs, kayaks, fishing boats
- Five championship golf courses including Bay Point Resort-Nicklaus Course and Meadows Course
- Dol-Fun Tours
- Waverunner Tours
- Diving, snorkeling and more!

**FOR MORE INFORMATION,
VISIT THE PANAMA CITY BEACH
CONVENTION & VISITORS
BUREAU AT
WWW.THEBEACHLOVERSBEACH.COM**

2009 Colorado River Law Enforcement Association Meeting

Some 200 boating enforcement and education staff from Arizona, California, Nevada and Utah gathered in Laughlin, Nevada January 21 – 22 for the 2009 Colorado River Law Enforcement Association's annual meeting to discuss hot topics and items of mutual interest along the Colorado River.

Wednesday's agenda included a welcome and agenda review along with the following topics: Attendees Introductions (name and agency), State Updates, USCG and Auxiliary Update, Hot Topic/Problems/Issues – Group Discussion, Implementing and Funding Dive Programs, OUI/BUI Successes - Areas for Improvement, Stand Up Paddleboards, Other Topics, Vendor/Sponsor Introductions, Recent Officer Involved Accidents and Mustang Inflatable Life Jacket Training.

Thursday's agenda included The Cop's Guide to Surviving Media Interviews, Mandatory Education Status,



Standardized OUI FST Validation Study – Status, Recent Major Carbon Monoxide Issues – Utah, Fatality/Arizona Case Study/ Group Discussion, PWCs for Law Enforcement, OUI Patrol Coordination Meetings and the conference ended with a special training session on Operational Leadership (Human Factors in Threat and Error Management) modeled on the Coast Guard's TCT program presented by the Park Service.



*Welcome!
The CRLEA
registration
desk.*



Utah BLA Dave Harris giving the State Update.



Shawn Alladio (K-38 Water Safety) and Paul Newman (USCG District II) talking during a break.



Officer Victor Gamboa (NDOW), Lt Dave Pffner (NDOW) and Officer Tim Baumgarten (AGFD) talking during a break.

Grants

continued from page 1

North Valley Family YMCA	CA	\$250.00
Mentor Fire Department Dive Team	OH	\$1,500.00
Mentor Fire Department Dive Team	OH	\$1,300.00
Mentor Fire Department Dive Team	OH	\$1,000.00
Mentor Fire Department Dive Team	OH	\$1,000.00
City of Amarillo, Parks and Recreation	TX	\$700.00
Keller Independent School District (KISD)	TX	\$1,500.00
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Flotilla 62, District 13	WA	\$1,000.00
Long Beach Police Department	WA	\$600.00
Central Ohio Safe Boating Council	OH	\$798.00
North Central Ohio Safe Boating Council	OH	\$500.00
North Central Ohio Safe Boating Council	OH	\$1,000.00
Safe Kids Tulsa Area - Water Safety Committee	OK	\$1,000.00
Educational Service Center / Lorain County	OH	\$1,500.00
Educational Service Center / Lorain County	OH	\$1,500.00
Educational Service Center / Lorain County	OH	\$1,500.00
Educational Service Center / Lorain County	OH	\$1,500.00
Educational Service Center / Lorain County	OH	\$1,500.00
Educational Service Center / Lorain County	OH	\$1,500.00
Educational Service Center / Lorain County	OH	\$500.00
Camp Foster YMCA	IA	\$700.00
American Red Cross	WV	\$475.00

Who's Who in Water Safety: Awards and Recognition



Tom Plante Retires but Remains with NWSC

Tom Plante, NWSC Board Member, Treasurer, and former Region 2 Vice President, has retired from his service with WE Energies. Here is a letter recently received from Tom:

Just a note to let you know that I have retired from We Energies, an investor owned utility in Wisconsin and Michigan, on August 1, 2008 after 40 years of service, most of those years spent in hydroelectric generation. I very much enjoyed many years with varied supervisory duties including ensuring public safety for those members of the public utilizing our lands and waters.

I have decided to maintain my membership and participation in the Board of Directors of the National Water Safety Congress as I developed a love for this organization, its dedicated members, and everything they do in the arena of water and boating safety! I have also maintained my active membership in the Hydro Public Safety Issues Group who also works diligently in ensuring public safety around dams across the United States.

Future plans, besides increasing my golfing time and spending much more time with my wife Lorie and our six grandchildren, include hopefully doing some consulting in the hydro business.

I very much look forward to seeing you at the annual International Boating and Water Safety Summit each year for the foreseeable future. Thanks so much for your support over the years, it has meant a great deal to me!

— **Tom Plante**

Wishing you the best (and see you soon), Tom!

Ed Carter Selected as TWRA New Executive Director



Ed Carter (pictured center) has been named the new executive director of the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency. Ed was selected in a vote by the 13-member Tennessee Wildlife Resources Commission. The selection came during the regular TWRC February meeting held Thursday at the TWRA Region II Building. The TWRC serves as the governing body of the TWRA.

Ed, the current Chief of the TWRA Boating Division, will assume his new duties on March 1. Ed is replacing the retiring Gary Myers, who has served as TWRA Executive Director since 1978.

Ed's career began with the TWRA in 1972. He became TWRA's Chief of the Boating Division when the division was formed in 1990. Recent leadership positions have included a term as president of the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators, president of the Southern States Boating Law Administrators, chair of the National Safe Boating Council, a member of the executive board of the Canadian Safe Boating Council, and as the TWRA Emergency Services Coordinator for more than 16 years with the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency. He is a member of the State Homeland Security committee.

Congratulations on your new appointment, Ed!



It's not too late to become a member!!!

Expand your influence through NWSC membership!

Please visit us on line for your application to become a member of the NWSC today! Applications can be downloaded, printed and sent to our office, or join directly through the web site.