



WATER SAFETY JOURNAL

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Newsletter of the National Water Safety Congress



IBWSS 2010: Rescues, Rewards, and Recognition

by Cecilia Duer



A day of fun, training and the 2010 IBWSS Olympics at Daytona Lagoon.

We are all back to work in our respective home communities with a re-newed sense of dedication after a very successful 14th annual International Boating and Water Safety Summit. We will have the polling results and results as from your comments on our web site very soon. Included in the nearly 400 guests were our partners from Canada, Brazil, and Abu Dhabi! Thank you for joining us, we were honored. We were pleased to welcome so many new faces to the exhibit floor and honor those returning.

Mother Nature even cooperated providing sunshine when we held our outdoor breakouts. Pre- and post-Summit courses had great results. For the first time we had an educational breakout on rowing. General sessions were outstanding.

Water sports were presented in our kite surfing breakout as was the new rage; stand up paddle boards. Special thanks to those who assisted from Florida in

those breakouts, as well as the folks from the Cambrian Foundation for their great presentation on the Commodore. The Tuesday events at the Daytona Lagoon water park, including the IBWSS Olympics provided educational hands on opportunities for learning in the friendliest environment. Thanks to Daytona Lagoon and their staff, we have never had such a great experience working with an on-site organization. We were witness to the best of the best of water safety professionals.

To our partners we say a huge thank you. Thanks to NASBLA, USBI, NBF, FERC and the USACE for allowing us to provide you with the venue for your organizations to come together in one place. We look forward to continuing this every year for you.

This is our fourteenth year partnering with the National Safe Boating Council and we are privileged to call them our partners but most importantly, honored to call them friends!

And a last but not least, on a very personal and special note, I would like to thank the staff of the NWSC who work countless hours on the Summit here in Mentor and on site and have outperformed themselves each year. They work

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IBWSS photos courtesy of Cecilia Duer and Christine Adams.

2010 NWSC GRASS ROOTS GRANTS

The following organizations met all the qualifying criteria for the award of United States Coast Guard grant monies distributed by the National Water Safety Congress:

Wendy Park Foundation,
Cleveland, OH

Enid Lake, USACE
Enid, MS

Harrisburg River Rescue and Emergency Response
Harrisburg, PA

Camp Foster YMCA
Spirit Lake, IA

West Virginia Water
Hinton, WV

Central Ohio Safe Boating Council
Lewis Center, OH

American Canoe Association
Fredericksburg, VA

Safe Kids Oklahoma
Oklahoma City, OK

Taylorview Junior High School
Idaho Falls, ID

USCG Auxiliary Flotilla 081-04-02
Covington, LA

Safe Kids Tulsa Area
Tulsa, OK

USCG Auxiliary Association, Inc-Flotilla 95-D-7
Marco Island, FL

USCG Auxiliary Flotilla 14-5 (0701405)
Fleming Island, FL

Iowa Great Lakes Water Safety Council
Spirit Lake, IA

Tate County Rescue Squad
Arkabutla, MS

USCG Auxiliary Association, Inc.
Mt. Dora, FL

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Thank you!



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THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Gary Owen

The 14th annual International Boating and Water Safety Summit (IBWSS) in Daytona Beach, Florida is successfully behind us, and we are all now on the threshold of our 2010 water recreational season, which is already well underway in some of our southern and western states.

The IBWSS is strategically placed on the calendar giving our water and boating safety recreational professionals the much needed resources for their communities and regional areas for the upcoming season.

The IBWSS is the culmination of efforts of the summit committee, our partners and participants. I want to applaud each and everyone who is involved, or has been involved, in making each summit the tremendous success it is year after year since its inception in San Diego, CA in 1997. I have had the pleasure to attend all of the summits but the first one, and it never ceases to amaze me how each summit seems to outdo the previous one. I challenge you as a summit attendee to return next year as a presenter, sharing what you have taken from the Summit and showing us what you are doing in the grass roots to promote water and boating safety.

The National Water Safety Congress is a promoter of grass roots organizations and our local water safety councils. It has been rewarding for me to have been involved in the creation of two water safety councils, the Midwest Regional Water Safety Council and the Iowa Great Lakes Water Safety Council. Many of the problems we address nationwide are not unique, and fortunately, solutions to overcoming issues can found within local and regional water safety councils who are unique in their ability to provide solutions to local problems.

By their nature and composition water safety councils are able to concentrate on water safety concerns relative to their area. Because they are ultimately a local issue, and need to be addressed by local players and organizations, the local water safety councils have high stake in their resolution.

By providing a framework within which all players and organizations collectively work towards a common goal, water safety councils have a synergistic effect. The effect of a council is greater than the effect of any specific player. It is through this synergism that the greater value of the council becomes evident.

Does your area need a water safety council? Begin by assessing your local needs. What problems could a local council address? Are they water and boating safety concerns? The National Water Safety Congress offers our partners assistance to guide you through the process of forming a water safety council.

If you believe that your area could benefit from the formation of a local water safety council, let the congress help you. Water and boating safety awareness and education begins at the grass roots level.

Finally, I would like to sincerely welcome some familiar faces back to the NWSC Board and welcome the new Board members of the NWSC. Please see the full 2010-2012 Board list on page 6.

Have a safe and productive water recreational season; begin by always wearing your life jacket!

Spirit of America Sets Sail

Our own Spirit of America Boating and Water Safety Youth Family and Community Education program has hit the water for 2010. This year, Spirit of America will be found in Ohio, Iowa, Mississippi, Tennessee, Maryland, and Kentucky. If there is a program near you, you may want to get involved in this award winning and personally rewarding program. Please visit the web sites www.watersafetycongress.org where you will be able to see a video about the program. Or check out the SOA web site: www.spiritofAmerica95.org for more information. *We need your help so that "NO Child is left on the dock!"*

Mark Your Calendars!

May 22-28, 2010
National Safe Boating Week

May 22, 2010
Tri-State Boating Safety Fair
"Go Boating Safely!"

London Bridge Beach Park,
Lake Havasu City, Arizona
www.BoatColoradoRiver.com

May 23, 2010 • 1:00 pm
Nautical Day – Captains Stadium
Eastlake, Ohio; *see page 7*

June 13-16, 2010
WSBAA 2010 Conference
Park City, Utah

June 25-27, 2010
Operation Dry Water
www.nasbla.org

August 21-29, 2010
USCG Auxiliary National
Conference
Scottsdale, Arizona

September 11-15, 2010
NASBLA Annual Conference
Honolulu, Hawaii www.nasbla.org

September 23-26, 2010
Canadian Safe Boating Council
Annual Symposium
Montreal, Quebec

March 6-9, 2011
15th International Boating and
Water Safety Summit (IBWSS)
Savannah, Georgia

WATER SAFETY JOURNAL

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President	Gary Owen
Executive Vice President	Paul Kennedy
Treasurer	Ernie Lentz
Executive Secretary	Brenda Warren
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Executive Director	Cecilia Duer
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2010 NWSC Award Winners

The 2010 National Water Safety Congress Awards Luncheon was held at the International Boating & Water Safety Summit in Daytona Beach, Florida. The Regional Awards were presented at the closing awards banquet.

Region One:

Brian Davidson, Vice President

Awards of Merit:

Bob Wattenschaidt, Alum Creek Lake, USACE

Pittsburgh District, USACE

Adam Prokop, Ohio DNR,

Division of Watercraft

Wanda Butts, The Josh Project

Mentor Fire Department

Dive Rescue Team

Rebecca Byrge, Caesar Creek Lake,

USACE

Letters of Commendation:

Dick Armstrong, Volunteer, USACE

James P. Muldoon, St. Brendan

Philip Pfeffer, Boy Scouts of America,

YMCA, Spirit of America

Alum Creek Ranger Staff,

Alum Creek Lake, USACE

Victor Ricks, Ohio DNR,

Division of Watercraft

Michael Ulrich, Mentor Fire Department

Region Two:

John Punkiewicz, Vice President

Awards of Merit:

Dennis Franks, Quincy Rangers,

Lock & Dam 21, USACE

Donald Bardole, Mississippi River Visitor

Center, Lock & Dam 15, USACE

Eldon Bird, Mississippi River Project,

USACE

Keith Koeman, Ottawa County Sheriff's

Office

Lake Shelbyville Water Safety Task

Force Team

Letters of Commendation:

Clint Adams, Jason Finney, Gary

Garretson, Carl Hoyt Jr.,

Harvester Bass Club

Phil Petersen, Iowa Great Lakes

Water Safety Council

Region Three:

Ernie Lentz, Vice President

Awards of Merit:

Center Hill Lake Park Rangers, USACE

B-100 WQXB Radio Station

USCG Aux. Flotilla 8-1

Officer Jonathan Fank, Selma Police Dept.

Safe Kids Northeast Florida



Region One Award: Cold Water Boot Camp and Beyond Boot Camp: The 3 R's - Rescue, Recover, Rewarm

Region Three Award:

Norman R. (Rusty) Gardner Jr., USCG Aux. Flotilla 14-5

Rusty was selected for his work in educating mariners concerning the use of Digital Selective Calling (DSC) in conjunction with Rescue 21. Mr. Gardner has created training material for DSC and Maritime Mobile Service Identity (MMSI) information. He worked with Rescue 21, BoatUS and the U.S. Coast Guard Search and Rescue as well as the Coast Guard Auxiliary on the development of easy to understand educational material on how to select and use this equipment.

Region Four Award:

St. Louis District Water Safety Team, USACE

Grenada Tourism & Thunder on the Water Planning Committee

Letters of Commendation:

Donald Baker, USCG Aux. Flotilla 8-1

Jeremy Oyen,

American Canoe Association

Thomas McKoon, USCG Aux. Flotilla 8-1

Frank and Hillary Smith, Gil Page,

Jim Sislow, Mississippi Spirit of America

Region Four:

Alan Bland, Vice President

Awards of Merit:

Sherry Kelley, Noalmark Broadcasting

Dan Marsh, Daily Siftings Herald

Mark Martin, NASCAR

Pam Herrin, Vicksburg District, USACE

Letters of Commendation:

B. J. Parkey and Mark Boling,

Tulsa District, USACE

Steve Sells, SEMO Water Safety Council

Lyndle Crownover, Doug Small, and

Chris Majors, Arkansas Game & Fish



Region Five Award: Paul Newman, USCG

Cpl. Mike Story, Cpl. Ron Davidson, and Officer Mike Shamoon, Arkansas Game & Fish

Region Five:

Ed Huntsman, Vice President

Awards of Merit:

Jim and Carol Allen, Arizona Boating and Watersports Magazine

Forever Resorts

Ed Swift, Drowning Prevention Coalition of Arizona

Region Six:

Ed Huntsman, Interim Vice President

Awards of Merit:

Ryan Lott, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Brad Tribby, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Mike Gladhart, Clearwater County Sheriff's Office

Letters of Commendation:

Larry Cox, USCG Aux. Flotilla 54

Leroy Bentley, Oregon State Marine Board

National Award Winner – Julie Richardson

The officers and board of directors of the National Water Safety Congress were honored to present our 2010 National Water Safety Award to Mrs. Julie Richardson.

Julie is the founder and Executive Director of DiveWise, the first non-profit freedive safety education initiative in the U.S. Julie founded DiveWise in the wake of an April 2008 near-fatal freedive accident where two of her sons each suffered blackout episodes during a 90-foot freedive when the older son attempted to rescue his younger brother. Fortunately, they were diving with friends who observed them floating, unconscious facedown, and rescued them. The Coast Guard responded and both sons were medivaced to a local hospital where they made a full recovery.

Since the near-fatal accident, Julie, a talented freediver herself, has been actively involved in furthering freedive safety education through DiveWise. Respected scientists and freedive professionals from around the world serve on the DiveWise advisory board. The mission of DiveWise is to reduce fatalities due to shallow water blackout by teaching and promoting safety techniques and risk management among freedivers and spearfishers.

The DiveWise web site, www.dive-wise.org, is the premier source for freedive safety education and information. The DiveWise advisory board contributes to the content on the DiveWise web site and its publications to make accurate information available. A seven minute training video is available on the site and YouTube. The video was developed by DiveWise through a grant provided by the Divers Alert Network (DAN) and is currently being used by the U.S. Army Special Forces, Performance Freediving International and many others to provide risk management



training in aquatic breath-hold activities. Through DiveWise, Julie has been invited to propose freedive safety coursework to be included in NAUI scuba certification training. She has also been very active in reporting fatal freedive events to DAN for their Breath-hold Incident Database and was involved in the development of their online reporting system. She has made freedive safety presentations at various conferences and at spearfishing tournaments. She served as the safety advisor for the first U.S. based lionfish tournament, coordinated the largest U.S. venom response unit, and created medical procedures for envenomation, safe hunting methods and victim incident reports.

In the two years since her sons' near fatal freedive accident, Julie and DiveWise have reached thousands of individuals in the U.S. and around the world with freedive safety education presented through personal speaking engagements as well as the DiveWise web site, educational video, brochures and the media.

If you know of persons such as Julie who are making a profound difference in improving boating and water safety, we encourage you to nominate them for a National Water Safety Congress Award. Information on submitting nominations may be found on our web site: www.watersafetycongress.org.

The President's Award Winner – Wayne Stogsdill



Wayne is the Operations Project Manager for the Corps of Engineers at the Mississippi Lakes. These four lakes are Enid, Sardis, Arkabutla, and Grenada. These are the four lakes that implemented a policy change in May of 2009 requiring mandatory wearing of life jackets for certain users at those lakes.

Wayne chose not to take the easy path but decided that his projects would step forward to see if they could truly make a difference in saving lives. He knew that there would be opposition but chose to make a difference. For that he is recognized with the President's Award from the NWSC.

Lifetime Achievement Award Winner – Emily King



Public Information and Education Section Manager Emily King retired from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources - Division of Watercraft on December 31, 2009 after 33 years of public service.

She first joined ODNR in 1976 as a work leader for the Youth Conservation Corps, then transferred to the Division of Watercraft as a state watercraft officer in 1978. She served on a development team that produced the nation's first river rescue training program. The program soon became nationally and internationally recognized.

In 1983, Emily became an assistant area supervisor in Erie County. She then joined the Division's central office staff in Columbus where she managed the river rescue training program and marine patrol assistance program. In 1990, she moved into the Public Information & Education section as boating safety coordinator and was promoted to section manager in 1998. Emily was instrumental in helping the Ohio DNR to develop legislation and to educate state lawmakers that resulted in passage of the state's first mandatory boater education law.

Emily is the only two-time recipient of the National Association of State Boating Law Administrator Boating Safety Award (1998 & 2008). She worked as a safety team leader during the 1989 International Canoe Federation's Slalom World Championships and served in international competition as a Kayak Safety Team Leader during the 1996 Summer Olympics Whitewater competition.

As she enters retirement, her boating education profession will continue as she goes to work for the National Safe Boating Council as an instructor for NSBC courses and American Canoe Courses.

Drowning Prevention Award Winners 2010

The National Drowning Prevention Alliance (NDPA) recognized national and community drowning prevention leaders on April 26, 2010 during the NDPA's 9th Annual National Drowning Prevention Symposium.

Cecilia Duer, Executive Director of the NWSC since 2002, received the 2010 National Lighthouse Award the NDPA's highest honor. She was selected for her leadership in boating and water



safety. She also serves as the Executive Director of the Spirit of America Foundation, it's youth education programs and is involved in additional national organizations dedicated to aquatic safety including the United States Coast Guard's Boating Safety Advisory Council and NASBLA, as well as acting as an instructor for Spirit of America programs, Ohio DNR Division of Watercraft Boating Education Course, the NWSC Personal Watercraft Course, Open Water Rescue First Responders Course, and Cold Water, Rescue, Recover, Re-warm Courses.

NDPA Executive Director Kristin Goffman says, "Cecilia is a true leader in this effort, managing numerous national projects. Her work in critical areas of

water safety education has advanced drowning prevention efforts across the nation." She was selected by NDPA because she embodies the spirit of this award: "For shining the brightest national light on drowning prevention through her work with National Water Safety congress and the Spirit of America Foundation.

Four NDPA Community Lifesaver Awards were presented:

Jim Reiser with Swim Lessons University was selected for his leadership in promoting drowning prevention in Columbia, SC, through a multi-faceted approach including swim instruction, water safety awareness, and media outreach.

Julian "Duke" Brown with Horry County School District was selected for his dedication to the prevention of drowning in Myrtle Beach, SC. For the past ten years, Brown has coordinated a Junior Lifeguard Program.

Gary Gray, a Vashon Aquatic Club swim parent and board member, is "...a tireless champion of getting kids in the water, and realizes the need for safety around the water since his community lives on an island. He spreads his passion for water safety by ensuring that all children have access to swim lessons."

The **San Diego County Aquatic Council**, led by Manuel Gonzalez and Belinda Bencomo, has made furthering aquatic opportunities for San Diegans, water safety and drowning prevention priorities.

Mentor Fire Department Goes Water and Boating Safety for 1000 Third Graders...

A Grass Roots Grant Project of the NWSC

In a small historic Fire House in Mentor, Ohio a large vessel has been built with a small amount of funding. The boat will be used for close to 1000 children who come to the Fire Safety House in May each year. The Mentor Fire Department received a Grass Roots Grant from the NWSC and used the funds to build a boat that third grade "passengers" can utilize for boating and water safety education.

In an ingenious endeavor Lt. Don Zimmerman and his Mentor Fire Fighter and Dive Rescue Team members built a 21' boat in a room complete with bench seating, all required equipment, a helm station for the "Captain", "motor" which is heard and felt, and gimbals for rock-

ing forward and aft and side to side. As the children enter the room they are fitted properly with a life jacket and head to their seats. The most interesting component of the project is a split screen video, which comes across the full bow of the boat, which was filmed on Lake Erie last fall and "takes" the children out to sea to witness safe and not so safe behavior by water recreational enthusiasts. The children "participate" in a rescue of other children who have over loaded a boat and capsized.

This is an excellent tool for young people to learn "first hand" about safety on and near the water.

Bravo Lt. Zimmerman and crew!

Grass Roots

continued from page 1

Muskingum County Community Foundation
Zanesville, OH

Annapolis Community Boating
Annapolis, MD

Judd Goldman Adaptive Sailing Foundation
Chicago, IL

Educational Service Center/Lorain County
Elyria, OH

Columbus Sail and Power Squadron
Lewis Center, OH

Lakes Park Foundation
Painesville, OH

USCG Auxiliary, Depoe Bay Detachment, Flotilla 54
Lincoln City, OR

Tucson Medical Center dba Safe Kids Tucson
Tucson, AZ

Bay Village School District
Bay Village, OH

Southeast Missouri (SEMO) Regional Water Safety Council, Inc.
Wappapello, MO

USCG Auxiliary, Flotilla D1NR-02-08
York, ME

North Central Ohio Safe Boating Council
Mansfield, OH

Lake Thunderbird Educational Foundation
Norman, OK

Boat Ohio Foundation (division of Lake Erie Marine Trades Association)
Westlake, OH

Fairwind Yacht Club
North Hollywood, CA

Water Watchers at Phoenix Childrens Hospitals
Phoenix, AZ

Bagdad Core Committee
Bagdad, AZ

The Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Oxnard and Port Hueneme
Oxnard, CA

Sailing Center Chesapeake (Div. SMSF, Inc. 501c3)
Solomans, MD

USCG Auxiliary
Harlingen, TX

Mohican School in the Out of Doors, Inc.
Butler, OH

The Lake County Captains
Eastlake, OH

NWSC Board for 2010 - 2012

We are proud to share the slate of Executive Officers and Board Members for the next two-year term. The Election was held during the 2010 International Boating and Water Safety Summit.

President

Gary Owen
Iowa Department of Natural Resources

Executive Vice President

Paul Kennedy
Missouri State Water Patrol

Treasurer and Region 3 Vice President

Ernie Lentz
United States Army Corps of Engineers

Executive Secretary

Brenda Warren
United States Army Corps of Engineers,
Retired

Immediate Past President

Arlyn Hendricks
United States Army Corps of Engineers

Region 1 Vice President

Brian Davidson
Lake Metroparks

Region 2 Vice President

John Punciekiewicz
United States Army Corps of Engineers

Region 4 Vice President

Alan Bland
United States Army Corps of Engineers

Region 5 Vice President

Ed Huntsman
Arizona Game and Fish Department

Region 6 Vice President

Joseph McCullough

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John Annino
Mark Brown
Barbara Beyers
Jon Cofrancesco
Madeline Morgan
Robert Ogoreuc
Bobby Noah Pharr
Bruce Rowe
John Schriener
Michael Ulrich
Brian C. Westfall

Executive Director

Cecilia Duer

Chief Financial Officer

Louise Smith

Beyond Boot Camp USA

The Three "R"'s Rescue Recover and Re-warm!

We will be taking you "beyond" Cold Water Boot Camp USA to **The Three "R"'s Rescue, Recover, Re-warm** very soon. At the time of this printing of the Journal a first review has been completed and work continues to move along very well with the natural follow on to Cold Water Boot Camp USA in The Three "R"'s. We expect to release the DVD this summer. An International viewing and presentation will be held at the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) Annual Conference in Hawaii in September of this year. We will be offering for the first time a Cold Water Survival/Rescue Recover Re-warm course. This will be a one-day course scheduled for September 15. Please call the office for more information or to register for a class, 440.209.9805. The NWSC will also offer their brand new course for the first time on an International level, post NASBLA conference.

The new curriculum, a modification of the current NWSC Course in Cold Water Immersion, will incorporate the best information for an educational setting from Cold Water Boot Camp USA (CWBC) and now for the First Responder, Rescue Recover, Re-warm. The CWBC DVD has been a huge success and plans are underway to re-print several thousand copies for the requests that continue to come in every day. The CWBC 10 minute version is still available on our web site. The Three "R"'s will also be downloadable on the web site however thousand copies of the Three "R"'s will also be distributed this summer and fall.

Fire Destroys Boat, Injures 1, Damages Dock

Arizona Game and Fish Department

At approximately 11:00AM, April 14, 2010 a large vessel that had just been launched and was tied up to the new docks at the south ramp of Lake Havasu blew up and caught on fire.

The vessel was approximately 36 feet long with an inboard motor. The owner of the craft, Jim Tacker, was thrown about 6 feet in the air and landed on the dock. Mr. Tacker had just fueled the boat with about 200 gallons of gas. Mrs. Tacker was still in their truck, she had launched the boat.

On scene were Rangers Sandra Skowera and Wayne Bailey. They immediately notified the contact station to call the fire department and started traffic control and making visitors move away from the scene. Emergency services arrived. The boat had burned away from it mooring and was drifting. Firemen started dousing it with foam. The County fire boat arrived and hooked the boat and started pulling it away from shore, dousing it with foam. The fire boat ran out of foam and pulled the boat to the ramp so the onshore firemen could reach it with their foam.

Incoming boaters were directed to Windsor I if they had a small boat to launch. Larger boats were directed to the marina for about three hours.

Mr. Tacker was taken to the hospital with unknown injuries.

At about 3:00PM the boat was removed from the ramp. There is some damage to the docks which was assessed by Ron Christofferson, the Game and Fish dock project manager.



*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 www.watersafetycongress.org.

AIS Information Takes To the Air

by Phil Petersen, Iowa Great Lakes Water Safety Council

Communicating Aquatic Invasive Species information to boaters coming into the Iowa Great Lakes area has been a challenge. Many boaters are visiting our chain of lakes for the first time or only visit our lakes once a year. It is important that we communicate that boaters should drain, inspect, and clean their boats and trailers prior to launching, since we do not have Aquatic Invasive Species now.

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources has just activated an Information Radio System to inform boaters about the threat of Aquatic Invasive Species. You may have encountered these stations at airports, tourist attractions, and for road construction. The new radio system has been licensed to operate at 1640 KHz. on the AM broadcast radio band.

The Iowa Department of Transportation and Dickinson County Highway Department are installing roadway information signs to alert boaters to this new AIS radio broadcast. Funding for this new broadcast system is being provided by the Dickinson County Water Quality Commission.

New road signs are sprouting on roadways leading into the Iowa Great Lakes. The signs tell motorists driving into the lakes to tune their AM radio to 1640 KHz. to hear messages about Aquatic Invasive Species, local weather, and other information of interest to boaters.



Colorado River States Join Forces in Operation Dry Water

NASBLA's Operation Dry Water information compiled by the Tri-State Media Team

Heavy law enforcement patrol efforts from the tri-state region will remove impaired boaters from the Colorado River at the end of June as part of *Operation Dry Water*, a countrywide movement that has 48 states increasing OUI enforcement and awareness. *Operation Dry Water* is a national campaign that was created to detect and remove impaired boaters from waters across the nation. Organized by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) and the U.S. Coast Guard, it will focus on enforcing Operating/Boating Under the Influence (OUI/BUI) laws June 25-27, 2010.

Arizona, California and Nevada have joined forces to partake in interagency OUI checkpoints, saturation patrols, and outreach along the 233-mile system.

"The Colorado River system is a massive undertaking to enforce," said Kevin Bergersen, Arizona's Boating Law Administrator. "However, it is important that every agency does their share since a significant number of alcohol-related accidents occur on the Colorado River," he said. "These checkpoints remove dangerous boaters from the river enforcing the .08 Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) throughout making it safe for everyone," he said. "We couldn't do it without the help of local and state law enforcement agencies," said David Piffner, Nevada's Boating Law Administrator. "Our partnership with Arizona, California and the counties, including the support of the U.S. Coast Guard, enables us to cover more territory making the river much safer."

The primary purpose of the operation is to detect boat operators who are under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs and to provide boating safety education and outreach to all. "*Operation Dry Water* is a national coalition of watercraft enforcement agencies banding together to provide enforcement and public interaction that will expand awareness about OUI and its consequences," said Bergersen "The penalties of watercraft operation and/or driving a vehicle while impaired are almost the same in the state of Arizona which many people do not know," he said.

Operation Dry Water at a national level is meant to promote awareness about local alcohol and boating laws. Arizona Boating Safety Education Program Manager Ed Huntsman advised that it is preferential to promote awareness and responsibility rather than arrest violators, however, "The reality is, for their safety and the safety of others, if you choose to drink and then operate a boat at or above the legal .08 limit, you will go to jail. The tri-state Boating Law Administrators want people to boat responsibly every time they hit the water, not just during the *Operation Dry Water*," he said.

They warn that penalties include large fines and jail time. To find out more about *Operation Dry Water* please visit www.nasbla.org or www.uscgboating.org. For boating safety information for the tri-state area, visit www.boatcoloradoriver.com.

The Cleveland Indians Division A Team, The Captains, Go To Bat for Boating & Water Safety!

Another Grass Roots Grant Effort

The Lake County Captains have invited us all to their Captains Stadium in Eastlake, Ohio, on May 23, 2010 for a very special game. The Captains have dedicated themselves to safer recreational water and boating use in Ohio and the surrounding states. They have dedicated the 1:00 baseball game on May 23rd to support boating and water safety initiatives. The stadium will be available for as many boats and boating and water safety booths and displays that we can provide. ALL BOATS WELCOME! ALL at NO COST. The stadium opens at 11:30 for activities. Some special activities include the Spirit of America students running bases and bringing out our (giant) flag for the National Anthem joined by all of you we hope, and a very special first pitch.

The students of Spirit of America and their siblings will have complimentary tickets that day. The Stadium holds 8000...let's fill it with life jackets, boats, and fun-filled activities to promote a safer water and boating recreational year! Let's see WEAR IT everywhere you look in that stadium on May 23rd!

Tri-State Area Outreach

Arizona Game and Fish Department employee Teresa Guillen fits a youngster with a new life jacket.



Nevada Department of Wildlife employee Ed Lyngar (R) offers a new Type IV to Lake Havasu boater.



California Department of Boating and Waterways employee Gloria Sandoval fits boater with new life jacket.

IBWSS

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unceasingly to care for our guests every need. Making their jobs appear seamless and effortless and are consummate professionals. Thanks for everything you have done and continue to do. Your professionalism is unequalled. To Louise Smith, Bonnie Breyley, Christine Adams, Donna Angus, Brian Davidson, Ernie Lentz, Michael Ulrich, and Jerry Craddock...they covered every "detail" and I am forever grateful!



Be sure to watch your mail for the Proceedings which will include all of the information on the Summit presentations.

For IBWSS 2011: Remember that awards nomination forms will be on the web site soon. Choose to acknowledge your favorite organization or individual with very special national recognition.

Request to Present forms are available on the web site now. Our due date is earlier this year due in part to the fact that the Summit will be held in early March of 2011. Please take advantage of the opportunity and let us all now what you are doing in the grass roots level or across the nation. We hope to see you all next March in Savannah, Georgia, as we invite you to celebrate the NWSC 60th Anniversary.



Who's Who in Water Safety: Awards and Recognition



A Note from Arlyn Hendricks

As the 14th annual International Boating and Water Safety Summit (IBWSS) this past March passed into history I was amazed at how quickly the past four years went by. This event was my last as President of the National Water Safety Congress (NWSC). I will always treasure the memories of those four years. Thanks to all of you that helped me on this journey.

Speaking of the Daytona Beach IBWSS, I want to say thanks to the partners (especially the National Safe Boating Council and the USCG) of the NWSC for their support and collaboration in this effort. From the feedback I have received most attendees not only had a great time at the IBWSS they were able to take with them ideas, programs, and products that they can use to make our waters safer.

It was my pleasure to present the NWSC Presidents Award at the IBWSS in Daytona Beach to Wayne Stogsdill. Wayne is the Operations Project Manager for the Corps of Engineers over the four lakes in Mississippi that implemented a policy change last year requiring mandatory life jacket wear for certain visitors to those lakes. When presented with the opportunity to make a difference, he could have taken the easy way out and done nothing. Wayne chose to do something that would create more work for him and the folks that work with him. No doubt about it; the choice that was made has the potential to affect many lives. We will never know how many lives were saved by this action.

All too often folks that are in the safety business, whether that is part of your job or you do it as a volunteer, focus on failures not successes. The accident statistics will tell us when bad choices were made or when equipment fails. What the numbers usually do not show are near misses or prevented accidents. It is easy to get discouraged, but remember that it is because of the dedicated folks like you that are out spreading the water safety message that the tragedies are the exception not the rule. Continue to stress to people that wearing a life jacket could save their life or the life of a loved one. Talk to them about the dangers of using alcohol or drugs while in or on the water. Encourage them to learn to swim. Educate parents and caregivers about the importance of watching children when they are in or near the water. Show them about proper vessel operation. You can and do make a difference.

In closing, I would like to thank Cecilia Duer, NWSC Executive Director, for assisting me these past four years while I served as President. Most of the recent successes of the NWSC are due to her efforts. She is unequalled in her passion, drive, and desire for water safety. Thanks again Cecilia!!!

Arlyn Hendricks
NWSC Past-President



Gary Owen presents Arlyn with an engraved compass in thanks for his four years of guidance as NWSC President.

Congratulations to National Drowning Prevention Alliance (NDPA) for Outstanding Symposium

In late April, the National Drowning Prevention Alliance (NDPA) held their ninth Annual Drowning Symposium. Hosted by Slippery Rock University and our own Board Member Bob Ogoreuc, the Symposium brought together close to 150 attendees from around the United States and Canada. Open water drowning and the importance of life jacket wear was focused upon. The NDPA will publish a Proceedings with further information.

The NWSC thanks NDPA for allowing us to present Spirit of America, a Life Jacket Fashion Show, Barge Lighting and the commercial industry's role in water safety, and Cold Water projects.