



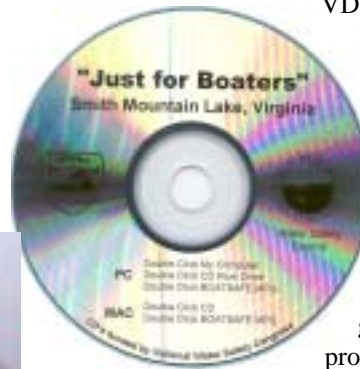
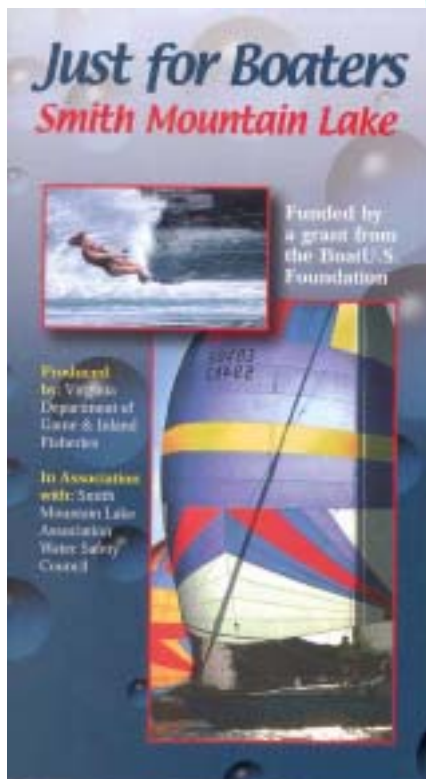
Grant Helps Organization Reach Public about Boating Safety

Through a grant from the National Water Safety Congress, the Smith Mountain Lake Water Safety Council has helped the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) with a water safety campaign aimed at boaters on one of the commonwealth's busiest lakes.

The Smith Mountain Lake Water Safety Council, located in Virginia, received one of the NWSC grants awarded for 2001. This grant was used to produce CDs as part of a major public education effort directed at boaters on Smith Mountain Lake, Virginia's second largest impoundment.

Boating safety officials with the VDGIF noticed that Smith Mountain Lake was statistically the commonwealth's most dangerous boating area. The U.S. Coast Guard lists the lake among the nation's top 10 percent for highest number of accidents.

According to figures compiled by the VDGIF, of the 169 reported accidents in Virginia in 2001, 45 occurred at Smith Mountain Lake, resulting in 37 injuries. That's the lake's highest number of accidents in five years. In 2000, the lake saw 36 of the state's 174 boating crashes and 37 of the state's 200 in 1999. As of Oct. 1, 147 accidents have been reported statewide for 2002, with 38 occurring at Smith Mountain Lake. These numbers represent an 11 percent accident rate decline at the lake from the same reporting period in 2001.



In an effort to reduce the number of boating accidents at the lake, the Smith Mountain Lake Water Safety Council and the VDGIF teamed together to produce a 16-minute boating safety video addressing safety issues on the lake. The Smith Mountain Lake Water Safety Council obtained a grant from the BoatU.S. Foundation for Boating Safety & Clean Water to pay for the physical production of 1,500 videos, while the VDGIF funded the graphic work, video sleeves and production of the video.

To increase the circulation of the material contained in the video, the Smith Mountain Lake Water Safety Council applied for a grant from the National Water Safety Congress. This grant paid for the production of 300 compact disk versions of the videotape. These CDs were given to the Smith Mountain Lake Chamber of Commerce to distribute to boaters. In addition, each local library has a copy of the CD version of the safety video.

Ralph Brush, chairman of the Smith Mountain Lake Water Safety Council, said the boating safety materials have been immensely successful. The video "Just for Boaters: Smith Mountain Lake," has earned the 2002 Governor's Water Safety Award and a national Telly Award, an honor given to outstanding non-network and cable television productions.

Brush said that while the commonwealth of Virginia had 19 boating fatalities in 2001, Smith Mountain Lake had zero fatalities. In fact, Brush added, the lake is approaching its fourth year without a single boating fatality.

A number of organizations have rallied to try to make things safer at the impoundment. They include local chapters of the United States Power Squadrons and the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. Among other things, members of those groups teach boating safety courses to hundreds of people. Marina operators have increased education for boat renters.

Apply Now for Local Water Safety Council Grants

Each year, the Congress makes available grants for local water safety councils to use in their water safety programs and efforts. Approximately \$9,000 is available for local water safety council projects in 2003.

Applications for 2003 funding must be postmarked no later than **February 28, 2003**.

The maximum individual grant amount is \$1,500. Grants of less than \$1,500 will be made where appropriate or if the Congress receives significant numbers of grant applications.

Grant applications are available on the National Water Safety Congress website at www.watersafetycongress.org/LWSC/applygrant.htm.

President's Column

By Ronald J. Riberich

Summer is long gone; however, several boating and water safety issues will not take a traditional season break as have numerous water enthusiasts.

Rather, as we move into fall and winter, a couple of burning issues will continue to dominate our agenda, namely the 2003 reauthorization of the Aquatic Resources (Wallop-Breaux) Trust Fund and the tragic effects of carbon monoxide poisoning.

The Wallop-Breaux reauthorization slated for 2003 is an extremely important element for state planning and natural resource agencies that have boating law responsibilities under their jurisdiction. While dealing with issues concerning hunting, fishing, conservation, highways, and countless other responsibilities, these agencies must also deal with reducing boating accidents and fatalities on our waterways.

According to U.S. Coast Guard statistics, since the early 1970s, recreational boating fatalities have decreased significantly on a national basis. The latest data indicate that boating fatalities have been reduced from a high of approximately 1,750 in 1973 to just under 700 in 2001.

The decrease in fatalities can largely be attributed to the impact of increased boater safety education that is made available to state resource agencies through funding from the motorboat fuel tax component of the Wallop-Breaux Trust Fund. However, there is currently a severe imbalance between the two main recipients of Wallop-Breaux Trust Fund dollars: the Boat Safety Account, from which state boating education funding is derived, and the Sport Fish Restoration Account, which focuses on major aquatic issues.

While no one disagrees that environmental, wetland and aquatic wildlife preservation are important issues to our nation, a continued trend in the reduction of boating fatalities on our nation's lakes and waterways is also a very desirable goal.

According to the National Survey on Recreation and the Environment (2000), recreational boating participation is

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Nominations Open for NWSC Awards

Each year the National Water Safety Congress presents awards to selected individuals and organizations who have made outstanding contributions to water safety during the previous year. The Congress is soliciting nominations for the awards it will present at the 2003 International Boating and Water Safety Summit, which will be held in Las Vegas April 13-16, 2003.

The deadline for submitting nominations and supporting information is **February 15, 2003**. Nomination forms can be found at www.watersafetycongress.org. The following awards are open for nominations:

- National Award
- Regional Award
- Award of Merit
- Letter of Commendation

Nominations must reach the appropriate regional vice president by February 15, 2003. The regions, the states they cover and their respective vice presidents are listed below.

Please research your area and nominate the most deserving individual or group for an award. Examples of those you might consider nominating include marina operators, office personnel, sports writers, wildlife officers, radio or TV station personnel, Coast Guard Auxiliary Units, civic organizations, individuals or organizations that have created water safety courses, etc.

Region 1: Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont

Cecilia Duer
Spirit of America Foundation
7455 Tyler Boulevard
Mentor, OH 44060

Region 2: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin

Tom Plante
We Energies
800 Industrial Park Drive
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

Region 3: Alabama, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia

Mac Wimbish
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
4155 Clay Street
Vicksburg, MS 39183

Region 4: Arkansas, Louisiana, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas

Bob Pharr
Entergy
141 West County Line Road
Malvern, AR 72104

Region 5: Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, Utah

Paul Crawford
NPS, Lake Mead Natl. Rec. Area
601 Nevada Highway
Boulder City, NV 89005

Region 6: Alaska, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, Wyoming

Ann Van Buren
Idaho Department of Parks & Recreation
PO Box 82720
Boise, ID 83720

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Multiple-Use Waterway Management Guide Nears Completion

The second edition of *A Guide to Multiple-Use Waterway Management* is in its final stages of production. Plans are for the publication to be available at the beginning of the year.

The revision and reprinting of the guide is being funded through a grant from the Aquatic Resources Trust Fund.

The 2002 edition of the *Guide* focuses on issues surrounding multiple-use waterways and the management of them. The publication will serve as a valuable tool for resource managers, regulators and planners at the regional, state and local levels by offering guidance and possible management tools.

Check NASBLA's website at www.nasbla.org for information on ordering copies of the updated guide.

Futures Forum on Recreational Boating

The National Association of State Boating Law Administrators is planning another Futures Forum for the spring of 2003.

The Futures Forum on Recreational Boating is designed to make attendees aware of information and developments that will impact recreational boating in the future.

The event will bring together recreational boating leaders from throughout the United States to explore the issues, trends and forecasts that will shape boating, outdoor recreation, resource management and public safety for decades to come.

Exact details have not been set; however, plans are to hold Futures Forum II for two and a half days during National Safety Boating Week (May 17-23, 2003) in the Washington, D.C. area.

Check the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators website at www.nasbla.org for updated information about the Futures Forum dates and location.

The Futures Forum on Recreational Boating is funded in part by the Aquatic Resources (Wallop-Breaux) Trust Fund administered by the U. S. Coast Guard.

Boating & Water Safety Summit Goes to Vegas

Boating and water safety experts from around the world will gather in Las Vegas for the 2003 International Boating and Water Safety Summit April 13-16, 2003. This annual event attracts hundreds of people who share information about current issues and trends in boating and water safety.



Photo courtesy Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority

The summit will follow much the same schedule as in previous years. The opening ceremonies will be held Sunday evening, general sessions on Monday, breakout sessions on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings, field activities Tuesday afternoon, closing sessions Wednesday afternoon and awards banquet Wednesday evening.

Breakout sessions will allow individuals to design their own curriculum from one of five available tracks:

- Education & Outreach
- Water Safety Education
- Risk Management & Liability
- Paddlesport Safety
- Law Enforcement

The Summit program and registration form are available on the National Safe Boating Council website at www.safeboatingcouncil.org.

The Summit is being held at the Alexis Park Resort. Make reservations by calling the hotel at 800.582.2228.

Marina Inspection Workshop Scheduled

The National Water Safety Congress is holding a marina inspection workshop in conjunction with the 2003 International Boating and Water Safety Summit next April.

The course will be held April 17, 2003. Transportation to and from the training site will be provided.

The workshop is aimed at those who design, operate, maintain, oversee, inspect or have safety responsibilities for patrons and their equipment at public or private marinas.

Training will consist of three hours of classroom instruction and three hours of hands-on inspection at a marina.

Each participant will receive a copy of *Guidelines for the Safe Operation and Maintenance of Marinas*, a marina inspection handbook, and copies of pertinent codes, standards and regulations.

Class size will be limited to 30 students – be sure to register early. Registration information will be available online with the Summit information at www.safeboatingcouncil.org.



Brenda Warren photo

SOSpenders Recalls Automatic Inflatable Life Jackets

The SOSpenders Corporation, of Fruitland, Idaho, is recalling approximately 7,200 automatic inflatable personal flotation devices (PFDs).

Approximately 300 defective Hammar units in one lot of 500 were loaded incorrectly and will not inflate the vest. SOSpenders Corp. decided to recall all Hammar products for a 100 percent safety inspection.

The unit malfunction was discovered by SOSpenders during in-house testing and was immediately communicated to the appropriate individuals to take corrective action.

The SOSpenders Corporation has received no reports of units malfunctioning. No injuries have been reported.

The PFDs have the brand name SOSpenders. The affected PFDs can be identified by a Yellow Hammar MA1

Manual/Automatic Inflator Cap, illustrated below.

Consumers should stop using the vests immediately and return them to the SOSpenders factory in Fruitland, Idaho.

For information on how to disarm the product and return it to SOSpenders, visit www.sospenders.com/recall.html.

For additional information, contact SOSpenders customer service department at 800.858.5876 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. PST Monday through Friday.

The new inflation units that will replace all recalled units contains a clearly identifiable inspection marking directly on the face of the inflation device. If a unit has a "100% inspected" marking on it, the unit is new and does not need to be returned. Please contact SOSpenders customer service for additional information.



President's Column

Continued from page 2

expected to continue increasing over the next 10 to 15 years. Likewise, the diversity in types of boating and the interaction between commercial and recreational boating will also increase over the next several years. Along with this is the probability of increased multiple-use waterway conflicts. Funding problems should not hinder the ability for planners to combat and handle these issues.

A method to address the problem of boating incidents and fatalities on our waterways involves increased funding for boating safety education. This can come about with a 50/50 split of the federal fuel tax attributable to motorboat fuel between the Boat Safety and the Sport Fish Restoration accounts. An equitable split of the motorboat fuel taxes is necessary if we are to continue the successful trends in reducing boating accidents and fatalities throughout the nation.

Another critical issue that must remain in our forefront throughout the fall/winter season is carbon monoxide poisoning. Carbon monoxide poisoning can occur when an individual is on the boat or when in the water close to the engine.

The Center for Disease Control, located in Atlanta, has documented 51 boat poisonings and 17 deaths in recent years due to carbon monoxide poisoning involving recreational vessels. All of these incidents could have been avoided if proper precautions had been taken.

As has been stated by medical experts, carbon monoxide is undetectable – it has no color, no odor, no taste; it causes no respiratory irritation; it does not float or sink; it mixes evenly with the air. Obviously the best way for people to protect themselves from carbon monoxide is to avoid places where the gas may be present.

Unlike automobiles, boat motors do not have catalytic converters which cut carbon monoxide emissions. The Coast Guard is working with engine manufacturers to find engineering solutions to combat carbon monoxide problems.

As you begin your preparations for the off-season, please continue to be focused and aware of the dangers associated with carbon monoxide poisoning. Do not lose sight of this issue. Discuss the dangers with your fellow boaters. You may be surprised that many boaters are still not aware of this potentially lethal situation. By spreading the word of carbon monoxide poisoning, you may spare a boating colleague from a truly tragic event.

The vests being recalled by SOSpenders include the following items and part numbers:



8030264 STD 38
MILLENIUM-WM
38HSTDM-W



8030265 HAR 38
MILLENIUM-WM
38HHARM-W



8030266 STD 38
MILLENIUM
38HSTDM



8030267 HAR 38
MILLENIUM
38HHARM



8030233 REARM
38 AUTO
HAMMAR
CMH38ARP



8030313
COMMERCIAL
VEST SOLAS F1
38CMH



8030315 TACT
VEST W/POC-
AUTO HAM
38HTV/9-CG



8030354
MILLENIUM, AUT,
LNG, BLK
38HSTDM/7



8030318 PRO 38
MILLENIUM
8HPROM



8030268 TACT VEST
W/POC-AUTO HAM
38HTV/9



8030316 ULTRA
LITE 38
HAMMAR
38HUL/9