

# water safety journal



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Winter 2000

## Safe Boating Week takes on international flavor as Canadians participate

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Starting this spring, “National” Safe Boating Week will be a misnomer, as the campaign takes on an international flavor as Canadian boating safety organizations join in the effort.

Once again, NSBW will unfold during the week prior to the Memorial Day holiday weekend in the U.S. Canada does not observe Memorial Day, which is a U.S. holiday, but that nation does have a recreational “boating season” which parallels the spring-summer season here.

“This is a North American campaign, with Canadian participation this year,” said Virgil Chambers, executive director of the National Safe Boating Council. “They will start out slow this year and get more involved in the future.”

Chambers told *Water Safety Journal* that both the Canadian Coast Guard and Canadian Safe Boating Council are joining with colleagues on this side of the border to promote the “Boat Smart from the Start ... Wear Your Life Jacket” campaign theme. He also said this year’s

effort will feature a wider selection of support materials.

Primary partners in the safe boating week campaign, which runs May 20-26, are NSBC, the Canadians, U.S. Coast Guard, National Association of State Boating Law Administrators, and the National Water Safety Congress. Also participating with a poster on hypothermia is the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Chambers said.

A media event is planned May 18, in both Washington, D.C. and Ottawa, Chambers added.

“There will be a number of dignitaries there,” he said, noting that a joint observance will give a boost to the Canadian effort.

Chambers said National Safe Boating Week campaign kits will be available in early March. They will be sent to educators and boating safety coordinators across North America.

“We’re anticipating more local events this year,” he added. “This should be the

biggest (Safe Boating Week) observance. Every year it has continued to grow, and with the inclusion of Canadian participation, it should be large.”

Information on Safe Boating Week is available now from a special website: [www.safeboatingcampaign.com](http://www.safeboatingcampaign.com). Chambers said materials from the campaign kit may be downloaded from the website. There are several good links on the main site:

- A Sample Proclamation
- Life Jacket - Dry Land Activities
- Life Jackets, They Float: In-Water Activities
- Personal Watercraft and Safety - There is Much Left to Know
- Downloadable “Boat Smart From the Start” logos and messages
- “If You Don’t Like To Wear A Life Jacket, Raise Your Hand!”
- How Do You Test Your PFD?
- Boating Accident Statistics
- Take the Pledge To Get On Board For Boating Safety

## Coast Guard seeks public comment on anchoring gear for recreational boats

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Recreational boaters have until May 22 to respond to a petition for rulemaking that would authorize the U.S. Coast Guard to require “proper” anchoring gear on all recreational boats.

Submitted by the National Boating Federation (NBF), the plan — if adopted — would change current federal regulations, which do not require ground tackle (anchor and line or chain) to be carried on recreational vessels as safety equipment.

A notice published in the Federal Register Nov. 22 described the Coast Guard’s policy for establishing national minimum safety equipment carriage requirements. This information, and the complete text of the notice, is available on the Internet at: [www.uscgboating.com](http://www.uscgboating.com).

Comments may be submitted by several means:

- By mail to the Docket Management Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street SW, Washington, DC 20590-0001.
- By hand-delivery to room PL-401 on the Plaza level of the Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street SW, Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The telephone number is 202-366-9329.



See page 7 for the Iowa Ice self-rescue broadcast.

Continued on page 6

# President's Column

by NWSC President Lu Christie

We all need a formula for success, a mantra to help us make a difference.

**B:** Belief. **O:** Opportunity. **A:** Attitude. **T:** Teamwork's Success.

This, the last column before the International Boating and Water Safety Summit, gives us a reason to assess the organization and the gains we have made over the years. Two score and nine years ago, a handful of concerned people met in Tennessee to find ways to promote water safety on the nation's waterways. Every one of them could have stayed home and bewailed the situation. But each of them made the effort, as a team, to find solutions. They believed they could make a difference. Today, the NWSC is still about individuals on a team making a difference because they cared enough to try.

*One person with a belief is equal to a force of ninety-nine who have only interests.* — John Stuart Mill

From the group that met in Tennessee, NWSC has grown to a membership of hundreds that interact with other water safety organizations devoted to a common purpose. Today NWSC, with the National Safe Boating Council, co-sponsors the International Boating and Water Safety Summit, an event that gives people from around the world the opportunity to join hands to promote water safety. We all make a difference.

*A wise man will make more opportunities than he finds.* — Francis Bacon

At times, the mission of water safety is tiring. We still see dumb things on the water, unsafe things that cause injuries or deaths. We see some of the same types of accidents happening over and over. Sometimes we may even doubt ourselves. But when we do, it's time for an attitude adjustment.

Truly, if we didn't care and work and continue to train, the water safety world would not be in as good a shape as it is. Every year we grow stronger and the team grows larger.

*There is little difference in people, but that little difference makes a big*

*Continued on page 5*

## NTSB announces new recreational boating safety initiative aimed at young boaters

MIAMI, Fla. — Using the Miami Boat Show as a springboard, the National Transportation Safety Board in mid-February announced a new national recreational boating safety initiative aimed at children and older youths.

According to NTSB's Bill Gossard, the agency is focusing on new technologies on personal watercraft, such as those announced last fall by Bombardier. Last September, in unveiling its 2000 model year PWCs, Bombardier unveiled its new Orbital "Learning Key" Technology to reduce PWC speeds to a maximum of 35 mph for first-time riders, secondary users and rental operators.

Gossard is the National Water Safety Congress Region 2 vice president.

Bombardier debuted the new feature during an event at Lake Tahoe which also saw the premier of cleaner, quieter-running PWCs. The vessels have been criticized in recent years for noise, and alleged pollution.

However, NTSB's attention is squarely focused on speed. In the wake of announcing that it placed a cap on PWC speed of 65 mph on its models, the

Canada-based company premiered the SEA-DOO Orbital Learning Key lanyard. This feature appears on the GTX DI and RX models

Henry Lonski, Bombardier vice president of SEA-DOO watercraft noted, "Most accidents occur within the first two hours of operation and are a result of operator inexperience and error."

However, the "Learning Key" feature, when engaged, throttles back on the machine so it can go no faster than 35 mph.

In 1998, the NTSB released a long-awaited study on PWCs which recommended that industry evaluate PWC design and "make changes to improve operator control and help prevent personal injuries." Evidently, the new Learning Key feature is Bombardier's response to that study.

The NTSB study also found that 84 percent of PWC operators involved in boating accidents have not received any formal boating education. NTSB recommended mandatory education for all PWC owners, and also suggested that states revise or enact legislation to require rental operators to provide safety instruction.

## TVA Police visiting schools with water safety message

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — Visiting schools, often with representatives from the Bicentennial Volunteers Association, Inc. (BVI), is how members of the Tennessee Valley Authority Police are spreading the word about water safety this winter.

According to TVA's Sidney Whitehurst, BVI volunteers set up most of the programs, while TVA officers provide whatever assistance they can. Much of the time, classroom visits are conducted, but there are times when a school-wide assembly is held.

"It depends on the size of the facilities, size of classrooms," Whitehurst said.

The TVA has jurisdiction over several projects along the Tennessee River Valley, which extends into several southern states.

On the training front, TVA marine patrol officers plan in-service activities this winter in Knoxville. They will receive training on portable breath testers from the U.S. Coast Guard, and will participate with other state agencies. The

TVA Police has purchased several BPTs to allow increased enforcement of drunk boating laws on the agency waters, Whitehurst said.

water safety journal

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## Deadline looms for submitting comments to Coast Guard on PFD wear alternatives

WASHINGTON, D.C.— An April 3 deadline is looming for recreational boaters and other interested parties to submit comments on whether the U.S. Coast Guard should propose federal rules that might mandate the wearing of personal flotation devices.

When the agency asked whether there should be a national requirement for all boaters to wear personal flotation devices at all times on the water, the response was overwhelmingly negative. Carl Perry, project manager for the Coast Guard's Office of Boating Safety, recalled, "The editors picked up on 'everybody wear them all the time.' We got 2,000 comments."

Perry emphasized that the USCG is "not ready to propose anything yet." Comments may be mailed, e-mailed or faxed. The complete text of the call for comments may be found on the Internet by calling up the Coast Guard's website at [www.uscgboating.org](http://www.uscgboating.org).

He said the Coast Guard will "consult further with the National Boating Safety Advisory Council (NBSAC) to determine whether we should propose any Federal rules that would help to reduce the number of recreational boaters who drown in the circumstances identified by this notice and by the comments to it."

While no public hearing is planned on any recommendation, the Coast Guard has written a questionnaire which could provide answers to many of the issues involved in offering a recommendation. That questionnaire is part of the request for comments published in the Federal Register (Vol. 64, No. 192, Oct. 5, 1999). Here's the text:

Please consider and respond to the following questions:

1. Several states have imposed various requirements for wearing lifejackets — by children, during water-skiing, aboard PWC, canoes and kayaks, and sailboards, and so on. Should we continue to let individual states determine their own requirements for wearing lifejackets? Or should we propose Federal rules to:

a. Ensure that, if states do issue requirements for wearing lifejackets, those requirements be consistent with one another?

b. Preempt the several states from issuing any such requirements at all?

c. Apply only on those navigable waters where no state has issued requirements for wearing lifejackets?

2. Should we propose Federal rules requiring that any or all of the following recreational boaters wear lifejackets while underway? If so, which?

a. Any child under 13 years of age, or under some other age?

b. Any boater on a recreational vessel less than 16 feet in length, less than 20 feet in length, or some other length?

c. Any boater on a specific type of recreational vessel, such as an open motorboat, a PWC, a sailboat, a sailboard, a rowboat, a canoe, or a kayak?

d. Any person being towed behind a recreational vessel on water skis, on an inflatable raft or tube, or on some other device?

e. Any boater who is the sole occupant of a recreational vessel? If so, should the rule not apply when a vessel capable of rendering assistance accompanies the first vessel?

f. Any boater on a recreational vessel operating either in certain water or weather—such as fast currents, white water, high tides, cold weather, or gale-force winds, or where the recreational vessel is, or could drift to,

more than a given distance from land.

g. Any boater on a recreational vessel defined by a specific combination of the boater's age, the vessel's type and size, its operation, and the prevailing water or weather?

3. Should we propose any Federal rules that allow alternatives to wearing Coast Guard approved lifejackets? If so, which alternatives? And if so, for which vessels, activities, water or weather, or boaters?

4. Please describe any nonregulatory ways to reduce the number of deaths by drowning, that are achievable at lower cost or with less burden than by Federal rules for wearing lifejackets.

Responses and comments may be sent:

- By mail to the Docket Management Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001.

- By fax to the Docket Management Facility at 202-493-2251.

- Electronically through the Web Site for the Docket Management System at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

## Las Vegas preparing for International Boating and Water Safety Summit

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — Boating and water safety experts from around the world will gather here April 16-19 for the annual International Boating and Water Safety Summit, headquartered at the Alexis Park Hotel.

Hundreds of participants are expected, said Fred Messmann, Region 8 vice president for the National Water Safety Congress, which sponsors the event. Messmann is also Nevada's state boating law administrator, and assistant chief of enforcement for the Division of Wildlife. Several activities are planned at the hotel, and there will also be on-the-water activities at nearby Lake Mead.

NWSC Region 5 Vice President Carl Garner, who headed the conference site selection effort, left no doubt that there will be plenty to do on the agenda. During the week, NWSC's program includes demonstrations by personnel from Nellis Air Force Base and by the National Park Service on Lake Mead.

The schedule also includes two full days with general sessions or five alternate afternoon tracks that cover such subjects as education, personal watercraft, drowning prevention, risk man-

agement/liability, facility management and communication and development.

NWSC will also host Education Standards and Law Enforcement committees of the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators, and the National Safe Boating Council's Executive Board. There will also be a drowning symposium presented by the National Aquatic Coalition.

This year's diverse seminar program is at least partly due to the U.S. Coast Guard's request for specific topics, including paddler safety and sportsmen and small boats, reported Steve Fairbanks, NWSC Region 6 vice president. The 2000 Summit program is available on the National Safe Boating Council's website at [www.safeboatingcouncil.org](http://www.safeboatingcouncil.org).

Meanwhile, planning continues for the gala 50th anniversary NWSC celebration, scheduled April 8-12, 2001 at Nashville, Tenn. That conference will be highlighted by an awards banquet, which could be held on the General Jackson, a famous sternwheeler excursion boat, Garner indicated.

*For Summit Program, see page 4*

# International Boating and Water Safety Summit 2000

## General Sessions and Concurrent Breakout Tracks

### SUNDAY APRIL 16

Opening Reception, Exhibition, and Poster Viewing

6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

### MONDAY APRIL 17

Opening General Session

8:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES, Barb Henderson

**Welcome to the Summit** - Lu Christie, President, National Water Safety Congress (NWSC) and Larry Innis, Chair, National Safe Boating Council (NSBC)

**Introduction of the Summit Advisory Committee** - Program Co-Chairpersons, Virgil Chambers, NSBC Executive Director and Steve Fairbanks, NWSC Vice-President

**Remarks by Local and State Dignitaries**

**Welcome from the United States Coast Guard**

**Remarks by Secretary of Transportation Slater**

**Remarks by ASA-CW Westphal - USACE**

**Remarks by National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) Chairman, James Hall**

**"Fatality Accident on the St. Croix River, MN"** - Sergeant Gary Swanson, Sheriff's Department, Washington County, MN

Lake Mead — Picnic & Water Activities!

12:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.

Lunch and transportation provided.

National Aquatic Coalition Meeting

7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.

### TUESDAY APRIL 18

General Session

8:00 A.M. - 10:00 A.M.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES, Barb Henderson

**"Accident Data: Myth or Reality"** - Moderator: Barry Sweedler, NTSB and Panel: Wood, Kummer, Schmidt, and Gossard

**"National Boating Education Standards — Update"** - Fred Messmann, Nevada Division of Wildlife

Concurrent Breakout Tracks

10:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.

**BEAA Award Presentations**

**Using Interpretive Media for Water Safety** - Jack Spinnler, National Park Service

**Overseas Speaker Forum** - William Gossard, NTSB, Coordinator with speakers representing Scotland, Italy, Australia, South Africa and France

**COE & PWIA Report of Findings on 10 Nationwide Regional PWC Workshops** - William A. Rogers, National PWC Committee Chairman, Lynda Nutt and John Donaldson

**COE & PWIA Report of Findings on 10 Nationwide Regional PWC Workshops** - William A. Rogers, National PWC Committee Chairman, Lynda Nutt and John Donaldson

**WHO Guidelines for Coastal and Freshwater Bathing Beaches and Swimming Pools, Spas, and Other Water Environments** - Dr. Arthur H. Mittlestaedt, Recreational Safety Institute

**HYDRO: "Working with Marina Owners to Promote Safe Boating at Hydro Projects"** - Brian Romanek, FERC Entergy Corp.

11:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.

**National Aquatic Week** - Dale Petranec, NAC

**HYDRO: "Recreational Trends Forecast at FERC Projects in the Southeastern U.S."** - Joseph D. Morgan, FERC

1:30 P.M. - 2:20 P.M.

**Operating Motorboats on Flowing Water, A Supplemental Module to Basic Motorboat Operator Training** - John Tobin, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

**DART** - Paul G. Crawford, National Park Service

**Dealing with Media During an Emergency** - Ross Adkins, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

**Water Emergencies! How Can I Help?** - George R. Angstadt, III, PA Fish and Boat Commission

**Results of the International Rescue Survey** - Dr. Tom Griffiths, Penn State University

2:30 P.M. - 3:20 P.M.

**How Texas is Addressing Environmental Issues Complicated by Recreational Boaters** - Jeffrey Davis, Texas Parks & Wildlife

**The Use of Boat Mounted Video Cameras for BUI Enforcement** - Roger Hanson, Wisconsin DNR

**The Emotional Cycles of Change and the Leader's Role** - Michael Smith, Boat U.S.

**Know Your Rights and Responsibilities on the Water** - Joan M. Bondareff, The Spectrum Group

**Man Overboard Recovery** - Kevin Wilson, International Sail and Power Academy, Inc.

**Water Related Incident Management** - Kenneth R. Schilling, Hennepin Co. MN Sheriff's Department

3:50 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.

**PFDMA University Everything You Always Wanted to Know About PFDs (Poolside)** - Charles Kearns of Stearns, Inc., Scott Swanby, Sporting Lives and Ralph Steger, Hedstrom, Corp.

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**

**FERC/Hydropower**

**National Aquatic Council**

**National Boating Safety Council**

### WEDNESDAY APRIL 19

Concurrent Breakout Tracks

8:00 A.M. - 8:50 A.M.

**Partnerships in Boating Safety and Education** - Kathleen J. Grim, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and George R. Angstadt, III, PA Fish & Boat Commission

**Search Is an Emergency (Lake Mead Recreation Approach to Water Searches)** - Wilfred (Willie) Lopez, Lake Mead

**Small Grant Funding for Your Educational Efforts** - Cathie Whitehouse and Vanessa Pert, Boat U.S. Foundation

**Recreation Management — Experience to Capacity** - Jim Holland, Lake Mead National Recreation Area

**Relations in Wisconsin** - Roger Hanson, Wisconsin DNR

**New Methods in Water Rescue** - Dr. Robert N. Yonover, Rescue Technologies, Corp.

9:00 A.M. - 9:50 A.M.

**West Marine Boating Safety Youth Program Award** - TBA

**Personal Watercraft Enforcement, Education, and Public Using Volunteers for Water Safety Patrol** - Nancy Bernard, National Park Service - Lake Mead

**Dealing with Media in Search and Rescue** - Captain Mike Holms, U.S. Coast Guard  
**Recreational Boating Courtesy Marine Examination: A New Beginning for the New Millennium** - Jesse L. Harrup, USCG Auxiliary and Panel: Dan Maxim, USCG Auxiliary, John Malatak, USCG and Ed Carter, Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency

**Perspectives on Personal Watercraft** - Peter De Launay, Northwest PWC Safety Project

**Trends in Beach Safety** - Dr. Tom Griffiths, Penn State University

#### 10:10 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.

**Safe Passage** - Kathleen J. Grim and Lynda Nutt, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

**In-Water Victim Rescue** - Sergeant Bob Albers, San Diego Lifeguard Service

**Easy, Effective, Inexpensive Training Aids for Boating Education Instructors** - Jack Dyess, Texas Parks and Wildlife

**User Conflicts** - Emmett Forte and Ron Riberich, Tennessee Valley Authority

**Maryland's PWC Livery Program** - Captain David Street and Julie Sweeney, Maryland Natural Resource Police

**Sportsmen and Small Boats** - Alan Madison of Alan Madison Productions

#### 11:10 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

**Multi-Cultural Water Safety Programs** - Laura Beauregard, Robert Moreno, and Asachang Lee, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

**S.T.A.R.R.** - Robert E. Ogoreuc, Slippery Rock University

**Boating Statistics: How Accurate Are They?** - Ruth Wood, Boat U.S. Foundation

**USACE Water Related Fatalities** - John Punkiewicz, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District

**PWC Industry Association** - Larry Lambrose, PWC Industry Association

**American Canoe Association: Video Production for Paddler Safety** - Kent Ford

**NWSC Award of Merit Luncheon**

12:00 P.M. - 1:00 P.M.

*Tickets can be ordered with registration and will be available on-site. Seating is limited!*

**Closing General Session**

1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.

**"It's a Different World"** - Jo Calkin, U.S. Coast Guard

**"Great Mascot Challenge"**

**"2000 North American Safe Boating Campaign"** - Virgil Chambers, NSBC Executive Director

**Concluding Remarks**

5:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.

**National Water Safety Congress Business Meeting**

**National Aquatic Coalition Wrap-Up Meeting**

**Awards Mixer and Banquet**

6:30 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.

**THURSDAY APRIL 20**

**Post Conference Meetings**

8:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

**NWSC Board of Directors' Meeting (Board Members Only)**

8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

**Basic Water Safety (Classroom and Pool)\***

9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

**NSBC Instructor Training Course**

1:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.

**Summit Advisory Committee Wrap-Up (Committee Members Only)**

**FRIDAY APRIL 21**

**Post Conference Meeting**

8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

**NSBC Instructor Training Course, continued**

\* Special Registration Fee Required

## Tennessee water safety task force offering presentations on boating safety around dams

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Promoting water safety has taken many tacks in this part of the country, and coordinating these efforts for the past two years has been the Corps of Engineers' Nashville District Water Safety Task Force.

According to chair Carolyn Bauer, strategies have included seminars on boating safety around dams and locks, school visits, public service announcements, courtesy boat inspections at launches and working with local television stations. One educational station has filmed some footage to use for PSAs this year, relating to dam and lock safety. There is also a video in production about lock and dam safety, and information about this is available on the Corps' local website: [orn.usace.army.mil](http://orn.usace.army.mil).

Twelve people serve on the task force, and they represent virtually every aspect of the Corps program here, said Bauer, who is the Nashville District's outdoor recreation planner.

"We get an overall focus by getting different elements together," she explained. "We look at problem areas and try to reduce accidents and fatalities."

The task force serves as a "springboard" for district-wide efforts, Bauer said. Such activities might include a school program one day, and a special event the next; anything to raise public awareness about safety issues.

Another thing the task force has done is take advantage of grants and scholarships, available from such sources as the National Water Safety Congress. Last year, for example, three COE rangers obtained scholarship money for travel to the International Boating and Water Safety Summit in Albuquerque, N.M., and another grant was obtained to pay for production of T-shirts and key chains as boating safety handouts.

Nashville District information officer Steve Foshee said an effort in neighboring Kentucky encourages boaters who run afoul of the regulations to attend a safety course.

*President's Column, continued from page 2*

*difference. That little difference is attitude. The big difference is whether it is positive or negative.*— W. Clement Stone

The partnerships that we form reinforce each other's efforts. Today the NWSC has representatives from numerous career fields, volunteer organizations, state, federal and local agencies, private industry and foreign countries. Each joins the same team, the water safety team. Each strengthens the teamwork of NWSC and all the Summit attendees because we learn from and encourage each other. The team is much stronger than the sum of its parts.

*The achievements of an organization are the results of the combined effort of each*

*individual.* — Vince Lombardi

If you have never been to the International Boating and Water Safety Summit I encourage you to go. I encourage you to join National Water Safety Congress. We welcome your help and your friendship. If you have attended in the past, come again. Together we can be successful in our water safety efforts.

See you at the Summit, April 16-19 at the Alexis Park in Las Vegas!

For more information on the Summit, check the [www.safeboatingcouncil.org](http://www.safeboatingcouncil.org) website. Or request registration information from 856-423-7222 extension 360.

## College coaching trio boosts water safety effort

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — College football coaches Mike Dubose, Hal Mumme and Phillip Fulmer have something in common other than pigskins and the gridiron, thanks to some effort by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

All three have agreed to appear on billboards, wearing life jackets provided by Stearns, to promote boating and water safety this spring. According to Steve Foshee, COE information officer with the Nashville District, each coach will appear in the advertisements in his respective state. Dubose coaches for the University of Alabama, Mumme is the coach at the University of Kentucky at Lexington, and Fulmer is coach at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville.

Stearns designed life jackets for the billboard shots that are not the usual fare. Each coach wears a life jacket bearing the colors of his team, complete with coach's name and his team's mascot/logo. Stearns' Mike Grupa said these special life jackets are literally "one of a kind" models. They will not be mass produced, but they will definitely bring a viewer's attention to the billboard, and who appears on it.

Coordinating the project is Tom Hood, operations project manager in Lenore City, Tenn. He is working in the Knoxville area to "make this happen," Foshee said.

About 100 billboards will be spread throughout the three states, Foshee estimated. Thirty will be in Tennessee, about 35 in Kentucky and the rest down in Alabama, primarily in the Huntsville and Birmingham areas.

*Coast Guard* continued from page 1

- By fax to the Docket Management Facility at 202-493-2251.
- Electronically through the Web Site for the Docket Management System at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

The Docket Management Facility maintains the public docket for this notice. Comments and material received from the public, as well as documents mentioned in this

## California youngsters again put artistic touch to water safety poster entries

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — This year's Safe & Wise Water Ways calendar from the California Department of Boating and Waterways illustrates aquatic safety themes they learned in class.

Featuring winning artwork from the DBAW's seventh annual boating and aquatic safety poster contest, this year's calendar project was supported by Kawasaki, Yamaha and Mustang Survival. Winners received \$100 savings bonds from both Yamaha and Mustang, and \$50 classroom gift certificates from Kawasaki that will allow classroom teachers to purchase supplies.

Winning posters carried such messages as:

- "Don't overload your boat."
- "Learn the Boating Rules of the Road!"
- "No Beer for the Boat Driver."

## Tulsa District creating PSAs to promote boat, water safety

TULSA, Okla. — With boating season in these parts just over the horizon, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' is busy putting together a series of public service announcements on water safety.

According to Ross Adkins, information officer with the COE here and a member of the National Water Safety Congress Board of Directors, a co-sponsor for the PSAs is being sought. This year's theme is a repeat of last year's "Boat Smart from the Start."

"It worked last year," he recalled, "and we're going to tag on it again this year."

Production was well underway in late January, with work on story boards already done. Adkins has been working with a production company, but acknowledged that the effort was "a shoestring operation."

"We're just trying to educate people, especially about personal watercraft," Adkins noted. "These are real watercraft, and you are the skipper of a vessel

preamble as being available in the docket, will become part of this docket and will be available for inspection or copying at room PL-401 on the Plaza level of the Nassif Building, at the same address between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. You may also find this docket on the Internet at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

Only Soda."

- "Safety First. Hey Kids, wear a vest!"
- "Wear a life jacket and swim with a buddy."

Ten winning posters are reproduced on the slick calendar, same as in years past. Winners were Kindergartner Michelle Her from Stockton, First Grader Summer Gordon of Fresno, Second Grader Haley Kidd of San Clemente, Third Grade student Alyssa Deloviar from San Diego, Fourth Grader Ricardo Pulido of Carson, Fifth Grade student Jeremy Oare of Moreno Valley, Sixth Grader Katrina Horner of El Cajon, Seventh Grade student Ryan Delany of Huntington Beach and Eighth Grader Priscilla Sales, also from Huntington Beach. Honorable mention went to Garrett Vang from Stockton.

when you are out there."

The Corps campaign is to get people to wear their life jackets all the time. Adkins said one strategy is to remind people that "the person who got in the water and drowned had no intention of getting into the water to begin with." However, once a person falls overboard, they're in trouble without some type of personal flotation device.

Most attention will be given to airing the PSAs before and during the three big holiday weekends, Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Labor Day, Adkins said.

"We've had very good luck with the media in that respect," he added.

Adkins said local rangers have managed to get information aired within a day of when they contact a television station.

Meanwhile, he said the Tulsa District COE is once again running a water safety poster contest for school-age children.

For further information contact Carlton Perry, Project Manager, Office of Boating Safety, at (202) 267-0979 or by e-mail at [cperry@comdt.uscg.mil](mailto:cperry@comdt.uscg.mil). For questions on viewing or submitting material, call Dorothy Walker, Department of Transportation, (202) 366-9329.

## Iowa's Saylorville Lake is backdrop for ice self-rescue news segment

JOHNSTON, Iowa — Leaping voluntarily through a hole in the ice into bone-chilling cold water is not exactly the sort of thing people do regularly, but when the effort is aimed at saving lives, John Mertz obliged.

"He didn't even get wet," said Kelly Ulrick, interpretive coordinator for the Army Corps of Engineers' Saylorville Lake project.

Ulrick was on site, along with the COE's Steve Fairbanks, and a film crew from NBC affiliate WHO Channel 13 in Des Moines, to film the segment for Saylorville Lake's EARTHCenter 13, which airs during Saturday morning "Today in Iowa" news broadcast. After five years on the air, Saylorville Lake continues to produce the two minute segments. This one was scheduled to air in mid-February.

"Television has become an excellent educational tool for park officials to reach target audiences not being reached with other efforts," Ulrick said. "These segments are geared for adult audiences. Some of the topics this year included Boating Safety, Personal Watercraft Safety, Ice Safety and Boating in Shallow Waters."

Ulrick noted that preparations are now underway to syndicate EARTHCenter 13 and renaming it EARTHCenter News, offering the potential for statewide viewership. Each segment is produced and aired for approximately \$600, Ulrick said.

"Without a partnership, it would cost close to \$2000," she estimated.

Mertz wore a dry suit under snow pants and a wind breaker; the sort of clothing that a typical ice fisherman might wear through the winter, Ulrick said. After he went through the ice, Mertz then demonstrated for the film crew how to pull yourself out, using ice awls. He was also interviewed as he floated in the hole, demonstrating the "HELP" (Heat Escape Lessening Position) strategy for surviving a plunge through the ice.

Fairbanks, who serves as Region 6

vice president for the National Water Safety Congress, told *Water Safety Journal* that this segment was designed to update a piece on ice self-rescue filmed



Film crew from WHO Channel 13 prepares to film ice safety segment for EARTHCenter news.

about three years ago.

"This began," Fairbanks recalled, "as a joint effort between us, the Polk County Conservation Board and Channel 13. We film these, do the voice-overs and talk about hypothermia, self-rescue, proper clothing. We're making a real strong effort here to get the publicity out."

Ulrick said several groups are now involved in the production of what has turned out to be a series of segments featuring different groups promoting various safety measures. This partnership includes the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, a private company called E-Resources, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, FOX TV, WHO TV, Polk County Conservation Board, Metro Waste Authority and Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, according to Ulrick and Fairbanks.

Segments on ice have been filmed for both adults and youngsters. The one for adults was entitled "If the Ice Starts

to Crack, Stop, Drop and Roll." The youth segment was called "Stick to the Rink, and You Won't Sink." The latter encouraged youngsters to limit their ice skating and recreation activities to developed rinks, and stay off frozen lakes and ponds.



John Mertz prepares to demonstrate how to pull himself out of a hole in the ice.

Three years ago, television efforts were expanded when an agreement was made with the local FOX 17 station, Ulrick recalled. The FOX 17 agreement includes the production of eight one-minute segments within a year, which are aired four times each.

This segment is called "Planet Patrol Adventures." It is aimed at school-aged children and reaches 70 percent of them in central Iowa every week.

Also included in the agreement are four joint agency segments, advertisements in the *FOX Kids Club* magazine (over 65,000 members), and free mailings to new Kids Club members of any publications provided to the station, Ulrick reported. In addition to all that, there is free booth space at a trade show just for youngsters called Family Fair.

## ASTM seeking help to standardize emergency rescue ops, equipment

W. CONSHOHOCKEN, Pa. — Support from emergency rescue specialists around the country is being sought by the American Society for Testing and Materials Committee F32 to produce standards for emergency rescue personnel operations and equipment.

This effort will cover a wide range of subjects related to rescue operations, including:

- Anchors used in remote rescue operations in wilderness areas, and a test method for determining anchor strength.
- Load ratios, as they apply to technical rope rigging equipment and systems that will determine safety factors in a rescue system or operation.
- Rescue rope minimum specifications.

In addition, other subjects facing the group are development of a guide for determining minimum breaking strengths, standardized test weights for rescue testing, belay effectiveness, rescue techniques, and workers compensation.

These activities will be discussed during a May 20-21 meeting of Committee F32 in Toronto, Ontario. For meeting information, contact John Pallante, ASTM at (610) 832-9737, or via e-mail at <jpallant@astm.org>.

## Life jacket loaner program a winner in Pennsylvania, West Virginia

TIONESTA, Pa. — While life jacket loaner programs are nothing new, each time such a program gets started, it provides one more success story to the boating and water safety effort.

Such is the case at Tionesta Lake in northwest Pennsylvania, and Tygart Lake, outside Grafton, West Virginia. Initiated last summer with support from a BOAT/U.S. Foundation grant, 15 youth-sized life jackets were purchased for each lake. So successful was last summer's inaugural effort that it will be continued this year.

According to Susan Kline with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which operates projects on both lakes, this loaner program allowed boaters to outfit their youngsters with a properly-fitted model. While the U.S. Coast Guard requires recreational boats to have a wearable life



jacket aboard for each passenger, time and again boat checks discover that the life jackets do not fit children, especially those under age 12.

“A properly-sized life jacket can be the difference between life and death for a small child,” Kline noted.

Life jackets obtained with the BOAT/U.S. funding come in three sizes: infant, child and youth. They are generally loaned out only for the day or a weekend, after the boater signs out for them.

The program was administered by the Corps Rangers at Tionesta Lake. According to Tionesta Ranger Grover Pegg, life jackets were loaned out more than 40 times last summer. The program ran from May 27 through Oct. 11, and Pegg said not a single weekend passed during the boating season when jackets were not on loan. In one instance, life jackets were loaned for a week.

“Customers were pleased with the selection of small size jackets and the

convenience of borrowing them, not to mention the no-cost aspect,” Kline reported. “Grover felt that minimal time was involved in loaning out the jackets, especially considering the success of getting kids into them.”

Tygart Lake's program was managed by their marina operator, said Kline. Thanks to drought conditions in that region last summer, the marina was forced to close down early, so statistics for the full season are not available. However, the program was well received when it was available, she said.



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