

# WAYPOINTS

This Newsletter is Published in Support of the Many Partners of the U.S. Coast Guard Office of Boating Safety.

June 2005 | Issue No. 5



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## Featured Story

### 2005 National Safe Boating Week A Success

Vessels were checked, pamphlets were given out, and life jackets were inflated this year during National Safe Boating Week, kicking off the North American Safe Boating Campaign and the official start of the boating season. The campaign got off to a great start with major events taking place in Florida and New York. There were also hundreds of local kick-off events *and* instances of national news coverage.



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## Upcoming Events

June 4-12 — National Fishing and Boating Week

June 5 — Youth Fishing Day

June 11-15 — Northern Association of Boating Administrators Annual, NASBLA, Wichita, KS

June 18 — 5th Annual LCI Little Anglers

June 18-19 — Summer Sailstice, Westmarine

June 18-20 — 24th Annual LCI Father's Day Fishing Derby on Lake Champlain, visit [www.lciderby.com](http://www.lciderby.com) or email [info@lciderby.com](mailto:info@lciderby.com) for more information

June 21 — First Day of Summer

June 25-29/05 — National Sheriffs' Association Conference, NASBLA, Louisville, KY

[Click Here for More Events...](#)

## Featured Story

### National Fishing & Boating Week, June 4-12, Aims to Hook Kids on Angling

Research from the Kaiser Family Foundation shows that kids spend an astounding 44 hours a week with TV, computers and video games. Perhaps that's why Richard Louv, author of "Last Child in the Woods," says that kids today suffer from "nature-deficit disorder." The Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation (RBFF) suggests that parents seeking a cure should try family fishing.

National Fishing & Boating Week (NFBW), June 4-12, was created to get families moving in the right direction. From California to Florida, and in most states in between, more than 700 on-water events are planned, including fishing derbies, regattas and festivals. The aim is to help kids connect to nature and build a foundation to stay connected into adulthood.

"takemefishing."

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## RBS Specialists News



## 2005 Discover Boating Tour

The Breaux Bridge Crawfish Festival in Louisiana was the first stop on the 2005 Discover Boating Tour, an event sponsored by the National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA).

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[US Coast Guard Recreational Boating Statistics](#)

USCG PSAs to be Featured on the Sportsman Channel

This summer (from June to October), the U.S. Coast Guard's "You're in Command. Boat Responsibly!" PSAs featuring bass fishing legend Bill Dance and NASCAR racing star Justin Labonte will be aired on The Sportsman Channel. Be sure to watch "Friday Night Fish Fry," every Friday night from 8:00-11:00EST to catch the spots.

Nautical Term of The Month

**LATEEN SAIL**—Did you know that the name of this triangular main sail was originally LATIN SAIL? It got its name from the Mediterranean type sailing vessel.

**SIDE LIGHTS**—We all know that navigational running lights are red, green and white. Up until 1825, however, the running lights on all ships were white only. With the advent of greater speed, red and green lights were added to better define a vessel's relative position and aid the mariner in navigation.

**HALLARDS**—These are used aboard vessels to hoist and display flags and pennants. The word comes from the original order to "Haul Yards!" These two words transformed into one word over time, which now means any lines used for hoisting sails, flags, etc.

Quick Links

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[National Association of State Boating Law Administrators](#)

[Sportsman's Channel](#)



Quick Thinking Saves Two...But Boater Education Would Have Prevented Situation

New York - "Stranded boaters use mirror as SOS." Two hapless sailors stranded in Jamaica Bay used a mirror and an orange flag to signal an NYPD helicopter that happened to be overhead on a training exercise. *Daily News*, May 17, 2005. Reported by Kerry Burke and Robert F. Moore.

Boating during this time of the year in the waters around New York is a delight, mainly because there are very few boats on the water (there's still a chill in the air and the water temperature is usually in the 50's). The boating experience will change dramatically in a few short weeks when hundreds of thousands of boaters converge on the area's waterways to enjoy warmer temperatures.

But I digress... Our "hapless sailors" left their marina without a VHF radio, and their cell phone batteries were dead. They also forgot to check the gas level in their boat, and consequently ran out of gas.

[Click Here for Full Article...](#)



Please submit comments to: [newsletter@uscgboating.org](mailto:newsletter@uscgboating.org)

U.S. Coast Guard Office of Boating Safety Infoline: 1-800-368-5647  
[www.uscgboating.org](http://www.uscgboating.org)



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## Upcoming Events

### June

June 1-6 — United States Power Squadrons Spring Governing Board Meeting. USPS, Charlotte, NC

June 4 — Women's Sailing Conference - National Women's Sailing Association, US Sailing, Marblehead, MA

June 4 — Family Fishing Festival, RBFF, Bell City, LA

June 4 — Let's Go Fishing, RBFF, Aberdeen, WA

June 4 — Kids Fishing Day, RBFF, Chesterfield, VA

June 4-12 — National Fishing and Boating Week

June 5 — Youth Fishing Day

June 11-15 — Northern Association of Boating Administrators Annual, NASBLA, Wichita, KS

June 18 — 5th Annual LCI Little Anglers

June 18-19 — Summer Sailstice, Westmarine

June 18-20 — 24th Annual LCI Father's Day Fishing Derby on Lake Champlain. Visit [www.lciderby.com](http://www.lciderby.com) or email [info@lciderby](mailto:info@lciderby) for more information.

June 21 — First Day of Summer

June 25-29/05 — National Sheriffs' Association Conference, NASBLA, Louisville, KY

### July

July 4-5 — Fourth of July

July 9 — Sanctioned US SAILING Safety at Sea Seminar, US Sailing, Newport Beach, CA

July 25 – August 3, National Boy Scout Jamboree, USPS, Fort AP Hill, VA

July 29-31 — Bassmasters Classic

### August

August 13 — National Marina Day

August 16-20 — National Conference of State Legislators, NASBLA, Seattle, WA

### September

September 1-3 — U.S. Coast Guard Auxillary National Conference, NASBLA, Orlando, FL

September 4th — 6th Annual LCI Lake Champlain Bass Open. Visit [www.lciderby.com](http://www.lciderby.com) or email [info@lciderby](mailto:info@lciderby) for more information.

September 5 — Labor Day

September 6-11 — United States Power Squadrons Fall Governing Board Meeting, USPS, Portland, OR

September 17-21 — NASBLA Annual Conference, NASBLA, Portland, OR

September 22 — First Day of Fall

## October

October 1 — Beginning of Waterfowl Season

October 18 — NYS Safe Boating Course, RBFF, Long Beach, NY

October 19-23 — Annual General Meeting, US SAILING, Phoenix, AZ  
[http://www.ussailing.org/events/fall\\_2005.htm](http://www.ussailing.org/events/fall_2005.htm)

## November

November 19-20 — One-Design Sailing Symposium, US SAILING, Annapolis, MD  
<http://www.ussailing.org/odcc>

## December

December 25 — Christmas Day

## January

January 18-22, 2006 — National Sailing Programs Symposium, US SAILING, Long Beach, CA  
<http://www.ussailing.org/training/nsps/2006>

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## 2005 National Safe Boating Week A Success

By Erica Clemmons  
Campaign Coordinator  
National Safe Boating Council

**V**essels were checked, pamphlets were given out, and life jackets were inflated this year during National Safe Boating Week, kicking off the North American Safe Boating Campaign and the official start of the boating season. The campaign got off to a great start with major events taking place in Florida and New York. There were also hundreds of local kick-off events *and* instances of national news coverage.

Two major events took place in Florida, which is second in the country for the highest number of boating accidents, and first when it comes to boating fatalities. Because of these poor statistics, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, with the help of the National Safe Boating Council (NSBC), launched a concentrated media effort in Lee County, targeting those most likely to be involved in a boating accident. Their efforts drew a number of local media from Cape Coral and Ft. Myers to the event to hold interviews, tour boats, and spread the messages of boating safety.

The other major event in Florida organized by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission occurred just before National Safe Boating Week and involved the Governor of Florida, Jeb Bush, who met with FWCC Executive Director Kenneth Haddad and representatives from the USPS, U.S. Coast Guard, NSBC, and BoatU.S. The group attended a Cabinet meeting with the Governor who read and signed a National Safe Boating Week proclamation. Later that day, a press conference was held at a nearby park where three Tallahassee television stations were on hand to interview the participants and witness a short inflatable PFD demonstration.

In addition to the success of the events in Florida, there was also a major kick off event in Albany, New York. Taking place along the Hudson River, the press event included a barbeque lunch and on-the-water demonstrations. The DMV Commissioner attended the kick-off in addition to representatives from the U.S. Coast Guard in Boston, the New York Boating Advisory Council, yacht club members, and NSBC Chairman Ed Carter.

National Safe Boating week was very successful in gaining coverage for local kick-off events, but it also received national attention. NSBC Chairman Ed Carter was interviewed by the Weather Channel for two separate pieces, which aired several times during the popular "Storm Stories" program. In addition, the campaign received coverage from WNBC-TV (NBC) in New York, News 12 New Jersey-New York, KNTV-TV (NBC) in San Francisco, WTSP-TV (CBS) in Tampa, KXTV-TV (ABC) in Sacramento/Stockton/Modesto, News 13 - Orlando and KGTV-TV (ABC) in San Diego. NSBC Executive Director Virgil Chambers also gave a number of radio interviews, including a national news wire interview that will be distributed to radio stations across the country.

All of these events were successful in gaining media coverage for National Safe Boating Week and informing the public about the importance of boating safely, wearing your life jacket, and being responsible while on the water. Congratulations to all the organizations that held successful National Safe Boating Week events! We appreciate all of your hard work and effort to promote safe boating during National Safe Boating Week and throughout the year!

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## Spill? What Spill? Products That Keep Fuel Where it Belongs—In Your Tank

Foundation Findings #40

**Y**ou're at the fuel dock, pumping fuel as fast as you can, when your grandson tugs on your arm, begging for an ice cream sandwich. Momentarily distracted by your search for change, and before you can say "Eskimo Pie," fuel is tumbling out of your tank vent and down the side of the hull. While a sheen starts to spread, you try to play it cool. It's just a couple of drops, right?

Fuel tanks on boats are not pressurized like they are in automobiles, so inboard boat tanks have an air vent to relieve the pressure that builds during fueling. Unfortunately, when your tanks are filled quickly or overfilled, these vents are notorious for burping fuel out into the water.

Are you worried about the effects of careless fueling on the environment? Do you have an aversion to retouching your gel coat, or for writing checks for pollution fines like the ones you could get under federal law for causing a fuel sheen on the water?

If so, the BoatU.S. Foundation has tested 10 products that promise fewer fueling spills, or could help you avoid overfilling.

### The Hardware

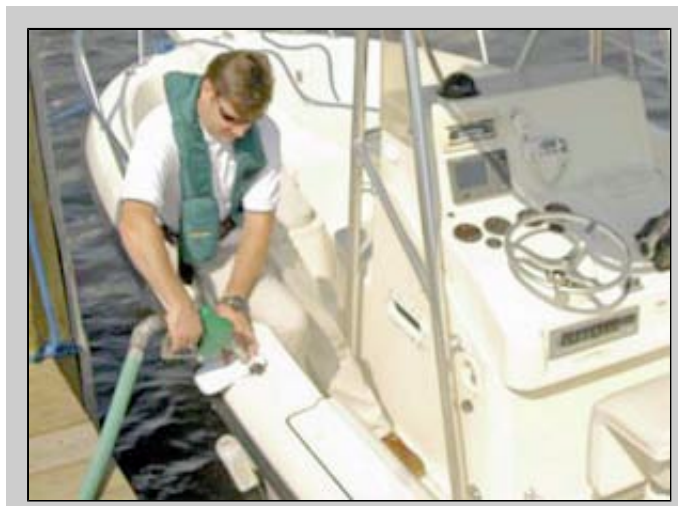
Using products obtained from manufacturers, we tried out four "inline fuel-air separators" from Attwood and Racor, ranging in price from about \$20 up to \$110. Next we tested three varieties of deck fillvent combinations, also called "vented fills," from Attwood and Perko, which retail from \$20 to \$60. Last in this category, we tested a unique device called the Seacurefill Fuel Recovery System which retails for about \$139.

In separate tests, we obtained electronic fuel management systems (also called fuel computers or flow meters) and installed them on boats borrowed for this test. We tried the FloScan Series K9000 with GPS interface, which runs for about \$1,400 per engine, and the Navman TrackFish 6600, a unit which includes a chart plotter, fish finder, and fuel computer in one. This loaded unit retails for about \$1,900. Without all the fancy features, however, a basic fuel flow meter can cost as little as \$200.

To test the hardware, we built a



To test the hardware, we built a mock-up of a boat fuel tank system, complete with a tank vent.



mockup of a boat fuel tank system, complete with a tank vent. On the "deck" of our model, we installed the vented deck fills. Below deck, accessible

hoses allowed staff members to install the inline devices. For inline device testing we used a regular deck fill like you might find factory-installed. One product was tested at a time; there were no combinations of products, such as a deck fill and inline separator.

Using products like this nozzle bib and No Spill catchment device can also help prevent accidental spills.

Due to obvious hazards, we did not use real gas or diesel for our testing, but instead used carefully formulated solutions of soapy water to mimic the foaming quality and viscosity of both gas and diesel. To pump our "fuels," we used two actual fuel nozzles — one standard (3/4") and one large (1-1/4") — which we attached to an electric water pump and pumped at both 10 gallons per minute and 20 gallons per minute. During testing, we pumped at full force every time until the nozzle automatically cut off. We did not top off.

To test the fuel management systems, we installed the Navman TrackFish 6600 on a 21-foot Stratos center console, powered with a single 200-hp gas outboard. We then took the boat on trial runs on Chesapeake Bay, varying the throttle, trim, and tilt settings to monitor fuel usage. We also had two FloScan Series K9000 professionally installed on a 55-foot Fleming power cruiser with twin Caterpillar engines and monitored its readouts during a 1,500 mile snowbird voyage down the Intercoastal Waterway.

### All Wet

After 24 different tests on the mockup, on both inline fuel-air separators and vented deck fills, we noticed a definite trend. In test after test, overflow bubbled out of the deck fill when the tank became full, often before the nozzle's auto shut-off even had a chance to engage. In other words, the pressure created by pumping fuel at a high rate of speed caused fuel to escape if not from the vent, then from somewhere, and in many cases, that somewhere was on deck.



While inline separators and vented deck fills minimized fuel coming out of the tank vent, there was a greater likelihood of it spurting out of the fill instead.

There was one positive exception. The Racor Lifeguard Fuel/Air Separator for gas/diesel (Model LG-100), an inline separator shaped like a small football, worked perfectly during every test, with no fuel escaping from either the vent or the deck fill. We believe it worked so well because of its large size, which allowed plenty of room for foamy fuel to bubble up, functioning like an expansion reservoir, without cutting off the air vent too quickly and causing backsplash from the fill. To confirm our findings about the inline fuel-air separators, we installed each of them individually on a colleague's Tiara Pursuit 24-foot center console so we could try them with actual fuel. In these tests, the Racor Model LG-100 was again the only unit that did not permit a single drop of fuel to escape when fueling rapidly.

Another exception was the Seacurefill Fuel Recovery System. It did the job, but requires an extra hole being cut in your boat, plus cumbersome additional steps during fueling.

### Knowledge is Power

Electronic fuel management systems will tell you how much fuel you have used and how much you need to take on — usually within 5% accuracy. The idea is once you've taken on as much fuel as you need, you will stop refueling and therefore, not push your tanks to the point where they have to vent. But that's just part of what they do. An advanced fuel computer, like the Navman tested, will constantly update you about your estimated range and your miles per gallon. The FloScan also tracks rpms, allowing the Fleming's captain to find the boat's "sweet spot." We found that a flow meter could be a powerful and useful tool for a boater, both for conserving fuel and for avoiding overfilling.

### Best Practices for Boaters

It may sound overly simple, but modifying your behavior at the



**Staff Pick:** For cost, convenience, and reliability, our staff chose the Racor Lifeguard Fuel/Air Separator for gas / diesel (Model LG-100) as the best venting product. Whether it's a small tank on a sailboat, or a large tank on a powerboat, we think it would

pump may be the best thing you can do to keep fuel out of the water. Keep track of your fuel consumption so you know how much you need at the fuel dock, then hold the nozzle rather than setting it on auto and walking away. Slow down, watch and listen. When you know you are close to full, fill your tanks to only 90% to allow room for expansion of fuels on hot summer days.

work well. They retail for a little over \$100.

Topping off is also a major culprit of spills, since you are pushing your tank to full or past full. Simply by eliminating this behavior, thousands of small spills could be avoided.

Keeping inexpensive clean fueling supplies on board — ranging in price from \$1 to \$25 — can also help. Oil absorbent pads, which pick up fuel but not water, are infinitely useful. Also, an absorbent fueling donut or fueling bib can be placed around a fuel nozzle to catch backsplash. A plastic overflow catchment device, like the No Spill, which is suction cupped to the boat's hull over the tank vent, can also be an effective tool in avoiding vent spills.

There is no perfect answer for every boat, so read the chart for pros and cons before considering what might be a match for your boat. Then visit our Web site for even more in depth details, pictures, and findings.

— By Joni Sralla Turken

*The BoatU.S. Foundation is a national nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization.*



[Click here to view tested Fuel Management Products \(Acrobat PDF\)](#)

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The Seacurefill Fuel Recovery System requires you to install a second opening (that looks a lot like a deck fill) adjacent to your existing deck fill. While you're fueling, you temporarily use a clear hose to catch overflow from there and direct it into the original deck fill.



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## Inline Fuel/Air Separators



**Models tested:** Racor Lifeguard Fuel/Air Separator for gas /diesel, Model LG-100, \$109.99, Racor Lifeguard Fuel/Air Separator for gas only, Model LG-50, \$92.99, Attwood Fuel Vent Line Surge Protector, Model 1675, \$23.99, Attwood P-Trap Fuel Surge Protector, Model 1680, \$21.54

**What it is:** An inline fuel separator is installed by cutting the vent hose that runs from the fuel tank to the tank vent on the outside of the boat. One model is fitted to the inside of the hull, replacing the tank vent fitting.

**How it works:** The inertia of surging fuel or rising fuel bubbles float a small ball that restricts the vent hose when it becomes suddenly overrun with fuel.

**Pros:** An inexpensive option that can be installed without a professional. Most models will not require cosmetic changes to your boat.

**Cons:** The boat must have access around the overboard vent area. You must fuel slowly and use extra care to prevent potential back splash from the deck fill.

## Vented Deck Fills



**Models Tested: (In order of photos)** Attwood Vented Deck Fill (Angled), Model 3782, \$59.99; Perko Combination Fill and Tank Vent Flip Top, Model 1319, \$20.99; Perko Combination Fill and Vent Screw Top, Model 0541, \$28.99, Seacurefill Fuel Recovery System, 1-1/2" Model, \$139.00

**What it is:** A special deck fill that must be installed in place of the factory-installed deck fill. A few boat manufacturers include one factory-installed.

**How it works:** The hose from the fuel tank that would normally vent overboard vents back into the deck fill itself, so the excess will flow back into the deck fill and into the tank.

**Pros:** No chance of spillage from tank vent since it is disconnected, or in the case of the Seacurefill, bypassed.

**Cons:** Is prone to causing back splash from the deck fill unless extreme care is taken to fuel slowly and not top off. May need to be professionally installed since sometimes a new hole needs to be cut in your boat's deck.

## Fuel Management Systems



**Models Tested: (In order of photos)** FloScan Diesel Fuel Flow Monitoring System with GPS interface, Series K9000, \$1,399.99 and Navman TrackFish 6600 Combination Chartplotter, Fishfinder, and Fuel Solution, Gas Model, \$1,899.99.

**What it is:** A computer that helps you manage fuel use by providing the rate of fuel consumption and calculating amounts of fuel used and available.

**How it works:** By measuring the fuel flow from the tank to the engine via sensors in the fuel line.

**Pros:** Once calibrated, can provide precise data on how much fuel a boater needs to take on to avoid overflow. Helps improve fuel efficiency and can be used as a diagnostic tool to alert the boater to changes in fuel efficiency that could be caused by prop or engine problems. Often is combined with a GPS, a chart plotter and/or fish finder. More basic models can cost as little as \$200.

**Cons:** Can be costly and some may need to be professionally-installed. Some require time calibrating the flow meter to your boat initially, and a quick read of the manual to understand usage of all features.

For even more on these products and for additional details of our testing, please visit our expanded Foundation Findings Web site at [www.boatus.com/foundation](http://www.boatus.com/foundation).

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## U.S. Coast Guard Recreational Boating Statistics

Here is a graphic representation of recreational boating statistics created by the Office of Boating Safety. Click the link to download an Adobe Acrobat PDF of the graphic.

[2003 Recreational Boating Statistics](#) (Acrobat PDF) 

Please feel free to use this graph for whatever print needs you may have. You can also find it at [www.uscgboating.org](http://www.uscgboating.org) in the "You're in Command" resource center.

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# OUT OF 703\* RECREATIONAL BOATING FATALITIES:



NOT WEARING  
LIFE JACKETS **576**

**481** DROWNINGS

**284** ALCOHOL INVOLVED

**201** FALLS OVERBOARD

\* According to 2003 United States Coast Guard Statistics  
Available online at <http://www.uscgboating.org/stats.htm>

**YOU'RE IN COMMAND**  
BOAT RESPONSIBLY



Brought to you by the U.S. Coast Guard

## 2005 Discover Boating Tour

**T**he Breaux Bridge Crawfish Festival in Louisiana was the first stop on the 2005 Discover Boating Tour, an event sponsored by the National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA).

NMMA invited the Coast Guard Auxiliary to join the 2005 tour and provided an informative, self-contained traveling exhibit. National Marketing Group stocks the exhibit with Auxiliary National Supply Center, BoatUS and PWC MA literature, and the National Safe Boating Council provides PFD stickers for children. NMMA arranges for entrance to the events and parking.

Local Auxiliarists staffed the Crawfish Festival exhibit and used the opportunity to promote "You're in Command! Boat Responsibly!" They emphasized life jacket wear, America's Waterway Watch, and recruitment of new members. Auxiliarists wore modern life jackets to demonstrate how new lightweight styles are perfect for hot weather. Many visitors signed up for Vessel Safety Checks and Boating Safety Courses.



Caption: Louisiana Governor Kathleen Babineaux and Auxiliarist Mike Clayton, VFC of 4-4 in Lafayette, LA.

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## Homeland Security Webpage Promotes National Safe Boating Week

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security recently featured a small article about National Safe Boating Week in the "Other Top Stories" section of their Website ([www.dhs.gov](http://www.dhs.gov)), and provided a link to [www.uscgboating.org](http://www.uscgboating.org). The article concluded by reminding boaters of the Coast Guard's four guidelines for safe boating: wear properly fitted life jackets; get vessels checked for safety; never boat under the influence of alcohol or drugs; and get proper training about the safe operation of boats.

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## Middle School Students Learn About Life Jackets

17th District Office of Public Affairs  
U.S. Coast Guard

JUNEAU, Alaska - Mike Swanson (right), the 17th Coast Guard District Recreational Boating Safety Specialist, and a retired Coast Guard Chief Warrant Officer don a life jacket on a Floyd Dryden Middle School student at the Alaska Army National Guard hangar. During a two-day session, Coast Guard personnel taught boating and water safety to the students. (Official U.S. Coast Guard photo by Noreen Folkerts)



JUNEAU, Alaska - Middle school students from Floyd Dryden Middle School take a plunge into the water at Coast Guard Station Juneau. (Official U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer Thomas McKenzie)



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## Life Jacket Purchases At BoatUS-Store.Com Raises Funds For Foundation's Life Jacket Loaner Program For Kids

**B**oatUS-store.com has teamed up with the BoatU.S. Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water to provide additional funding for its Life Jacket Loaner Program for kids.

From May 1 to June 30, 2005, BoatUS-store.com will contribute \$1 to the Foundation's loaner program for each life jacket purchased online. The loaner program allows boaters to borrow a kid's life jacket for the day, afternoon, or weekend at over 366 locations in 49 states. It has saved the lives of three children since its 1997 inception. Over 10,000 life jackets have been loaned to date.

"We are pleased to support the BoatU.S. Foundation's Life Jacket Loaner Program," said Tony Gasparich, vice president of Internet sales for [BoatUS-store.com](http://BoatUS-store.com) and [WestMarine.com](http://WestMarine.com). "It's a terrific program that helps get kids out on the water safely." The online store at BoatUS-store.com is owned and operated by West Marine.

"Most parents understand the need for life jackets but they may not always have the proper size life jacket aboard," said BoatU.S. Foundation President Ruth Wood. "With West Marine's support, we will be able to improve the program and keep more kids safe on the water," she added.

The BoatU.S. Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water is a national 501(c)(3) nonprofit education and research organization primarily funded by the voluntary contributions of 585,000 members of BoatU.S., the nation's largest recreational boat owners association. The Foundation operates more than a dozen programs including the only accredited, free, online general boating safety course, a low-cost EPIRB rental program, the "Help Stop the Drops" national clean fueling campaign, and grants for nonprofit groups for boating safety and environmental projects.

West Marine, Inc. is nation's largest specialty retailer of boating supplies and operates 383 West Marine and BoatU.S. stores in 38 states, Canada and Puerto Rico, with more than \$680 million in annual sales. The company's successful catalog and Internet channels offer customers approximately 50,000 products. The company's Port Supply division is the country's largest wholesale distributor of marine equipment serving boat manufacturers, marine services, commercial vessel operators and government agencies. For more information on West Marine or BoatU.S. products and store locations, or to start shopping, visit [www.BoatUS-store.com](http://www.BoatUS-store.com) or call 1-800-BOATING (1-800-262-8464).

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## At ABC, NMMA Highlights Boating Safety... Recognizes Leaders

NMMA (National Marine Manufacturers Association), consistent with its commitment to recreational boating safety, recently hosted the Boating Safety Appreciation Breakfast, which was sponsored by PWIA. At the breakfast, six groups were recognized for their work and dedication to promoting boating safety. The recipients of the awards were:

- BoatU.S. Foundation
- National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA)
- National Safe Boating Council (NSBC)
- U.S. Coast Guard
- U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary
- United States Power Squadrons®

In addition to the awards breakfast, two NMMA member companies exemplified the industry's commitment to boating safety. Mustang Survival and Stearns both donated inflatable life jackets to all ABC participants. The generous contribution of these two companies served to raise awareness of boating safety, promote the use of innovative life-saving devices, and raise the profile of personal flotation devices within the boating community.

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# WAYPOINTS

This Newsletter is Published in Support of the Many Partners of the U.S. Coast Guard Office of Boating Safety.

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## National Fishing & Boating Week, June 4-12, Aims to Hook Kids on Angling

**R**esearch from the Kaiser Family Foundation shows that kids spend an astounding 44 hours a week with TV, computers and video games. Perhaps that's why Richard Louv, author of "Last Child in the Woods," says that kids today suffer from "nature-deficit disorder." The Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation (RBFF) suggests that parents seeking a cure should try family fishing.



National Fishing & Boating Week (NFBW), June 4-12, was created to get families moving in the right direction. From California to Florida, and in most states in between, more than 700 on-water events are planned, including fishing derbies, regattas and festivals. The aim is to help kids connect to nature and build a foundation to stay connected into adulthood.

To make it easy to find scheduled events, times and locations all across the U.S., the nonprofit Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation has posted a comprehensive listing on its public-service website, [takemefishing.org](http://takemefishing.org). Events can be searched by state, town, and zip code to identify family-oriented fishing and boating activities close to home.

At a time when many parents are concerned that their kids spend far too much time indoors, fishing is a good way to motivate them to get off the couch. "I've interviewed many parents across the country who want to get their kids outside, but they don't necessarily know where to go or how to do it," said author Louv. "Because it's so easy to do and so widely accessible, fishing is a great solution for many parents."

"Fishing differs from many other forms of outdoor recreation because it not only gives kids a lasting way to connect to nature, it improves family communication in ways few activities can," says Bruce Matthews, president of the Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation. "National Fishing & Boating Week gets things headed in the right direction by getting kids interested in fishing and boating early."

### Dean Cain Serves as 2005 NFBW Honorary Chairperson

To help spread the word that fishing is a great pastime for families, actor Dean Cain has agreed to be the 2005 honorary chairperson of National Fishing & Boating Week. Best known for his role as Superman/Clark Kent in "Lois and Clark: The New Adventures of Superman," Cain is an avid angler who enjoys fishing with his four-year-old son. Cain will be in New York City on June 2 and 3 doing media interviews to promote NFBW and to discuss how fishing benefits kids.

### Free-Fishing Days Mean There's No Excuse Not to Go Fishing

To provide families an opportunity to try recreational fishing without the commitment of purchasing a fishing license, most states now sponsor free-fishing days when no license is required. Many states have scheduled these days during NFBW, providing an additional incentive for people to get out on the water. A complete state-by-state listing of free-fishing days can be found at [takemefishing.org](http://takemefishing.org).

Since 1991, fishing participation rates have been in a slow decline. In response to this trend, organizations like RBFF have launched a variety of efforts and events such as NFBW aimed at stemming the tide and ensuring a strong future for one of America's favorite recreational activities. NFBW is also part of Great Outdoors Month, designated by presidential decree as the month of June. During Great Outdoors Month, state and federal agencies, conservation groups, service providers and related businesses are holding family events in communities across the country.

According to RBFF, more than 50 million Americans participate in fishing and boating every year; that's more than play golf and tennis combined. Additionally, 83 percent of state funding for managing and conserving aquatic resources comes from the sale of fishing licenses, and from excise taxes on fishing equipment and motorboat fuel. These funds ensure that fishery resources are well-managed, accessible and conserved for future generations to enjoy.

About the Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation (RBFF)

The RBFF ([www.rbff.org](http://www.rbff.org)) is a government-funded, nonprofit organization established in 1998 to increase participation in recreational angling and boating, thereby increasing public awareness and appreciation of the need for protecting, conserving and restoring America's aquatic natural resources. Recreational boating and fishing are America's favorite sporting activities, with more than 50 million people participating every year - that's more than play golf and tennis combined.

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## Northwest Watch helps Coast Guard save lives

JO2 Ryan Hill  
13th District  
U.S. Coast Guard

**W**ith more than 3,000 miles of shoreline in the state of Washington, keeping track of boating safety and water hazards can be a daunting task. The U.S. Coast Guard has initiated a program called Northwest Watch to make tracking these large masses of water a more efficient undertaking.

Northwest Watch is a program involving U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary members and civilian volunteers that live along these masses of water, including the Puget Sound. Participants of the program are represented on a map of the Puget Sound in the Coast Guard's computer system. When the Coast Guard gets a call about trouble on the water, they check their computer and see if they have any volunteers in that area.

If they do, they call the volunteers and ask them to check on the situation. If the call ends up being a false alarm, the U.S. Coast Guard saves money and manpower by not deploying to the area. If the call is a real situation, the U.S. Coast Guard is able to dispatch their resources in a more efficient matter.

"With the navigational work, storms and weather, we can't be everywhere at once," said U.S. Coast Guard Public Affairs Specialist 3rd Class Adam Eggers. "Northwest Watch helps us prioritize while still maintaining a level of readiness with our units."

With the Northwest Watch program currently running in the states of Washington and Oregon, the U.S. Coast Guard estimates a monthly savings of approximately \$5,000. Increasing the amount of volunteers in the program will lead to more savings. There are currently 124 members of Northwest Watch. Approximately 40 of them joined in the past two months.

The success of Northwest Watch has led the U.S. Coast Guard to actively promote the program in an effort to gain more volunteers. They are currently working on plans to pitch it to area boating clubs and other organizations around the Puget Sound.

"It's our job to educate the public," said Eggers. "We as a government agency have a responsibility to spend our money wisely. The National Response Plan has called for an implementation of citizen involvement. We want all the volunteers we can get because there is no such thing as too much information. It's a win-win situation. The U.S. Coast Guard gets the information they need to do their jobs and the volunteers get to be involved in something positive."

The U.S. Coast Guard is currently looking for any volunteers who can help in the Northwest Watch program. They are specifically looking for people who live in homes overlooking the shoreline and navigated waterways. For more information about Northwest Watch, call (206) 220-7237 or visit [www.uscg.mil/d13/nwwatch/](http://www.uscg.mil/d13/nwwatch/).

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## **BoatU.S. Foundation Announces 2005 Boating Safety Grant Winners**

**W**inners Eligible for New Boating Safety Outreach Award

Visit any marina or waterfront community and you'll find volunteers working hard to keep our waterways safe for boaters. To help these volunteers continue their good work, the BoatU.S. Foundation for Boating Safety & Clean Water has just awarded over \$40,000 in grants to nonprofit groups to spread the message about safe boating practices. To encourage excellence in grant performance, these groups will be eligible for a new honor, the Boating Safety Outreach Award, which will be bestowed to the group that completes the most innovative, resourceful and effective grant project.

Groups providing the Foundation a final report at the completion of their project will be eligible for the Boating Safety Outreach Award, which gives the winner an additional \$500 to use toward their project. "We'll evaluate how successful each group was in terms of effectiveness, professionalism, innovation and the use of positive messages," said Ruth Wood, president of the BoatU.S. Foundation. "This is a way for us to say, 'job well done', and supplement a successful program with extra funds," she continued.

The BoatU.S. Foundation, a national 501(c)(3) nonprofit education and research organization, received 100 applications for its 2005 Boating Safety Grant cycle. Of these, 22 groups from Alaska to Georgia (see list below) were selected to receive grants. With this year's grant focus on increasing the voluntary use of life jackets among all boaters, eight of the 22 groups included this theme in their grant programs, which range from purchasing life jackets for elementary school instruction to erecting boat ramp signage highlighting the need for life jackets for all aboard. Other grant projects include producing an "emergency procedures" sticker for boaters in four languages, a museum boating safety exhibit, and a 16-page, full color boating safety booklet.

Since 1988, the Foundation has awarded over \$575,000 in boating safety grants to fund projects that promote responsible boating at the local level. Funds are derived from the voluntary contributions of the 590,000 members of Boat Owners Association of The United States, (BoatU.S.). For information about how to make a tax-deductible donation to help keep programs like these afloat, go to [www.BoatUS.com/Foundation](http://www.BoatUS.com/Foundation).

### 2005 BoatU.S. Foundation Boating Safety Grant Recipients

**Alaska:** U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary 0205, Seward, AK, to reproduce the "Emergency Procedures" boating sticker and translate it into Inupiat, Korean, Japanese, Togalog and Chinese.

**California:** Santa Barbara Maritime Museum, Santa Barbara, CA, for the "Boating Safety Equipment and Education" exhibit, which will display a variety of personal safety gear and other safety related equipment.

**Georgia:** West Point Lake Coalition Water Safety Council, LaGrange, GA, for the production of 10 water and boating safety signs for courtesy docks and bridges in local boating areas.

**Idaho:** U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary 0887, Sandpoint, ID, to design and install signs at each of the 22 boat launches surrounding Lake Pend Oreille and the Pend Oreille River encouraging boaters to wear life jackets.

**Kentucky:** Elkhorn Land & Historic Trust, Inc., Frankfort, KY, to create and distribute 20,000 "Slip 'n' Click" mini posters demonstrating the importance of slipping on a life jacket and hearing the strap fasteners click shut.

**Louisiana:** Livingston Parish Waterway Commission, Denham Springs, LA, to distribute 600 "We Were Caught Wearing Our Life Jackets" t-shirts to local boaters.

Maine: Lake Region Safe Lakes Assn., Naples, ME, to create and distribute literature, signs, rack cards and articles encouraging boaters to wear life jackets.

Michigan: Kent County Safety and Community Action Fund, Grand Rapids, MI., to distribute 1,000 water bottles and 2,000 color flyers.

Missouri: SEMO Regional Water Safety Council, Inc., Wappapello, MO, to design and distribute 250 "Safe Boaters Wear Life Jackets" t-shirts.

Minnesota: Kings Kinnie Inc., Brooklyn Park, MN, to print and distribute 1,000 copies of "My First Book on Boating, a Guide to Boating Safety for the Young Boater."

Nevada: Southern Nevada Sea Partners, Henderson, NV, to purchase various types and styles of life jackets that will be used for elementary school presentations.

North Carolina: New River Foundation, Inc., Jacksonville, NC, to establish 18 safety signs geared toward life jacket usage at main boat ramps and the Cowhorn paddle trail.

New Jersey: U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary 0204, Lincroft, NJ, to create and distribute 500 life jacket foam drink holders and flyers with safety messages regarding the importance of life jacket usage.

New York: City Island Power Squadron, Bronx, NY, to create and distribute 1,000 "Yardstick for Boating Safety" decals.

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary 1109, Brooklyn, NY, to create and distribute 1,000 16-page, full color boating safety booklets.

Erie Power Squadron, Ripley, NY, for two 3' x 5' outdoor vinyl banners promoting boating safety classes to new boaters in the area.

Ohio: Southern Ohio Marine Traders Assn., Cincinnati, OH, to design and distribute promotional materials and to purchase life jackets for the Cincinnati Boat Show.

Pennsylvania: Erie Safe Boating Task Force, Erie, PA, to create and distribute 1,000 Chap sticks "on a leash," featuring boating safety messages.

Western Pennsylvania Search and Rescue, Wilkesburg, PA, to construct five informational rescue stations and place them in Allegany County, PA.

Utah: U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary 7, Salt Lake City, UT, to design and post refueling procedure signs at all on-the-water gas refueling points within the state.

Virginia: Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University student Sarah E. Taylor, Blacksburg, VA, to research and design practical and comfortable life jackets specific to paddlers and similar user groups.

Wisconsin: Jackson County DIVE Team, Black River Falls, WI, for a row boat and safety gear that will be used for on-the-water training and safety education.

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## Congress Congratulates Auxiliary on its Efforts for National Safe Boating Week

**T**he U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary is receiving kudos from Congress for its efforts in promoting National Safe Boating Week. The U.S. House of Representatives has approved a resolution recognizing the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, along with the U.S. Coast Guard and the National Safe Boating Council, for greater public awareness about the annual campaign, which ran from May 21 through May 27.

Resolution 243, introduced by Rep. Tim Cooper (D-Tennessee), proclaims that the House "supports initiatives for recreational boating, safety education and accident prevention to minimize the number of annual recreational boating fatalities." The resolution, which had 22 bipartisan co-sponsors, lauds the U.S. Coast Guard, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and the National Safe Boating Council for their annual efforts to highlight the importance of safe recreational boating. It was approved by a voice vote on May 23.

Auxiliarists from Division 11 in District 8E in Tennessee worked with Rep. Cooper to propose the resolution and helped in securing its passage.

The United States has an estimated 78 million recreational boaters in the United States and nearly 13 million registered recreational vessels. As HR 243 notes, while the number of recreational boating fatalities has declined by more than half since 1970, thanks to the increased use of life jackets, improved boating safety education, enforcement efforts and safer vessels and equipment manufactured in accordance with U.S. Coast Guard standards. But, more than 700 people died in recreational boating accidents in 2003. It is estimated more than half those lives could have been saved with the proper use of a personal flotation device.

The North American Safe Boating Campaign began in 1957 as a small, grassroots outreach program. It has evolved into a targeted media effort, stretching across the United States and into Canada. Working with partner organizations, such as the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators and the Canadian Safe Boating Council, the campaign aims at spreading a message of boating safety, encourages boater education, and helps to save lives.

The campaign produces a variety of safe boating information intended to enhance and supplement the individual campaigns that take place through groups, associations, and organizations across the United States and Canada during National Safe Boating Week.

Boaters desiring a free vessel safety check by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary or those who wish to enroll in a boating safety course can visit [www.cgaux.org](http://www.cgaux.org).

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## U.S. Coast Guard and Milwaukee Brewers Hit Boating Safety Home Run

LTJG Boris Montatsky  
Assistant Operations Officer  
Coast Guard Sector, Milwaukee  
U.S. Coast Guard

**F**or the second year in a row, the U.S. Coast Guard and the Milwaukee Brewers are partnering to make boating safer on Lake Michigan by rewarding children under the age of 13 for wearing their lifejackets.

Each year, Wisconsin-based Coast Guard units conduct thousands of law enforcement boardings to ensure compliance with federal boating safety laws. This includes enforcement of a 2003 federal law requiring children under the age of 13 to wear lifejackets. Currently, there is no lifejacket wear requirement for children under Wisconsin law.



During the upcoming boating season, children under the age of 13 wearing lifejackets will receive a certificate redeemable for a free ticket to any Milwaukee Brewers game during the 2005 regular season. Coast Guard Boarding Officers will hand out the certificates during random vessel boardings on Wisconsin waters.

"It's a win-win," said Chris Barlow, Brewers Manager of Group Sales. "The opportunity to recognize safe boating practices, especially among children, is a program the Brewers stand solidly behind."

"Today's lifejackets are more attractive, more comfortable and easier to wear than ever before," said LTJG Boris Montatsky of Sector Lake Michigan. "The 2005 North American Safe Boating Campaign really drives that message home."

Coast Guard boat crews from Kenosha, Milwaukee, Sheboygan, Two Rivers, Green Bay, Sturgeon Bay and Washington Island will carry out the program. The Coast Guard handed out 1,200 certificates in 2004.

"We're continually looking for innovative ways to get our safe boating messages out," said Captain Scott LaRochelle, Sector Lake Michigan Commander. "I tip my cap to the Milwaukee Brewers organization for their generous spirit in supporting this initiative."

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## USCG PSAs to be Featured on the Sportsman Channel

**T**his summer (from June to October), the U.S. Coast Guard's "You're in Command. Boat Responsibly!" PSAs featuring bass fishing legend Bill Dance and NASCAR racing star Justin Labonte will be aired on The Sportsman Channel. Be sure to watch "Friday Night Fish Fry," every Friday night from 8:00-11:00EST to catch the spots.

[Click here to view the Bill Dance PSA](#)

[Click here to view the Justin Labonte PSA](#)

[www.thesportsmanchannel.com](http://www.thesportsmanchannel.com)

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## **U.S. Coast Guard Office of Boating Safety recognizes outstanding 56th International Science and Engineering Fair projects**

Richard Kanehl, G-OPB-3  
Office of Boating Safety  
U.S. Coast Guard

**O**ver 1,400 students made presentations at this year's International Science & Engineering Fair (ISEF) held May 8-14 in Phoenix, Arizona. The U.S. Coast Guard, Office of Boating Safety judged those projects that showed relevance to the advancement of boating and water safety.

ISEF began in 1950 with the purpose of encouraging High School students from throughout the United States and the world to conduct scientific research. This science competition is for students in the ninth through twelfth grades. Students from the United States and over 40 countries, including Brazil, Malaysia, Turkey, and Nigeria, competed for \$3 million in scholarships and prizes at this 56th ISEF competition.

"We want to make sure that today's youth realize that the boating industry and water recreational activities offer a variety of interesting challenges and career opportunities." said Philip Cappel, Chief Product Assurance Division, Office of Boating Safety. "Students should realize that the U.S. Coast Guard and the boating safety profession not only provide jobs that are interesting but also contribute to our society by saving lives, property, and resources."

### **Money for Future Educational Efforts**

The U.S. Coast Guard determined who would share the \$10,000 worth of awards by reviewing projects from the following ISEF categories: behavioral and social sciences, biochemistry, botany, chemistry, computer science, earth and space sciences, engineering, environmental science, gerontology, mathematics, medicine and health, microbiology, physics, zoology.

"The U.S. Coast Guard is an agency with important responsibilities." said U.S. Coast Guard Operations Policy Director Captain Scott Evans. "We have a duty to encourage the advancement of ideas that compliment the U.S. Coast Guard's key missions of protecting the environment and human life. These High School students show an amazing grasp of scientific concepts devising innovative solutions to unique problems. Their projects have the real potential to improve the recreational boating experience for millions of Americans. As such, their efforts are truly worthy of recognition."

### **U.S. Coast Guard Looking for Talent**

In addition to providing financial assistance, the U.S. Coast Guard encourages ISEF participants - such as Kaitlin Luther and Alana Yurkanin, of Wailuku, Hawaii - to consider military and civilian careers with the U.S. Coast Guard.

These young ladies earned the top honor in the U.S. Coast Guard Special Award category for noteworthy research to prevent tragic encounters between sharks and humans. Their hands on research tested ways to deter sharks from areas with swimmers and scuba divers via specific sound frequencies. For those sharks which still exhibited too much aggression or curiosity, they demonstrated that scuba divers can use air bursts to motivate sharks to immediately turn away. Not only can their research prevent shark attacks on people but will also save numerous sharks from being killed

### **U.S. Coast Guard Special Award Winners**

The U.S. Coast Guard is honored to recognize the following 56th International Science & Engineering Fair participants for their projects relating to boating and water safety:

**First Award of \$5,000** - Methods of Deterring Sharks in Both Invasive and Noninvasive Situations

Kaitlin Maria Luther, 17, Henry Perrine Baldwin High School, Wailuku, Hawaii  
Alana Marie Yurkanin, 17, Henry Perrine Baldwin High School, Wailuku, Hawaii

**Second Award of \$3,000** - F.I.N.D. 2: The Development of an Autonomous Surveying Vessel

Benjamin Thomas Unsworth, 16, Kingswood Academy, Sulphur, Louisiana

**Third Award of \$1,000** - Barnacles Be Gone 2: Does Ultrasonic Activation Prevent the Adhesion of the Balanus glandula?

Ryan John Clark, 15, Hilton Head Preparatory School, Hilton Head Island, South Carolina

**Fourth Award of \$500** - Obtaining Fuel by Electrolytic Decomposition of Sea Water

Claudio Bravo, 16, Eagle School, Antofagasta, Chile

**Honorable Mention Award of \$100** - Enhanced Stability Effects of Micro-Foils on Super Cavitating Torpedoes

Robert Francis Minehart, III, 16, Sterling, Virginia

**Honorable Mention Award of \$100** - Hovercraft Symmetry and Lift/Load Capacity

Amy Minh-Tran Duong, 18, W. T. Woodson High School, Fairfax, Virginia

Samantha Lindsey Saenger, 17, W. T. Woodson High School, Fairfax, Virginia

**Honorable Mention Award of \$100** - Plant Derived Corrosion Inhibitor

Samuel Batista, 18, Colquitt County High School, Moultrie, Georgia

**For more information about:**

U.S. Coast Guard Office of Boating Safety

<http://www.uscgboating.org/>

U.S. Coast Guard Recruiting

<http://www.qocoastguard.com/>

International Science & Engineering Fair

<http://www.sciserv.org/isef/>

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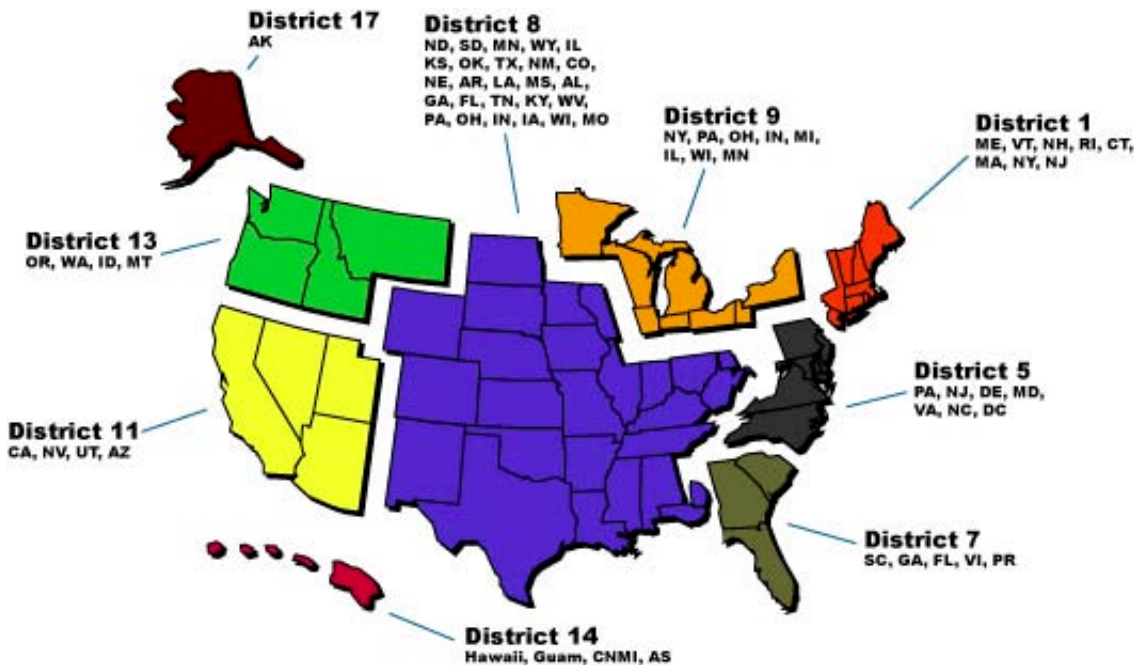


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## RBS Specialist News



## June 2005 Updates

### FIRST COAST GUARD DISTRICT

**Al Johnson**, Recreational Boating Safety Specialist  
(617) 223-8464 – phone  
[ajohnson@d1.uscg.mil](mailto:ajohnson@d1.uscg.mil)

### **Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont**

June First Coast Guard District RBS activity commences on Thursday, 2 June with a review meeting of the 5th Annual Paddle Smart Safety Symposium that was held in Bangor, Maine on Saturday, 14 May. Approximately 150 people participated in the 4-hour safety event that featured a kick-off to National Safe Boating Week and a proclamation from the City of Bangor and presented by Mayor Frank Farrington. Also providing support were members from Coast Guard Group Southwest Harbor, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife - Warden Service, Maine Department of Marine Resources - Marine Patrol, Coast Guard Auxiliary, U.S. Power Squadrons, YMCA/YWCA and more than a dozen other non-profit organizations and clubs.

Coast Guard Group Southwest Harbor, Group Portland and the Maine Department of Marine Resources - Marine Patrol will host a joint, inter-agency Search and Rescue Forum at Coast Guard Station, Rockland, Maine on Friday, 2 June.

The First Coast Guard District RBS will be in attendance at the Northern Association of Boating Administrators Conference in Wichita, Kansas from 12 through 16 June. A First District RBS report will be presented.

A planning meeting for joint 2005/2006 recreational boating safety projects will be held at the MA Institute of Technology on Thursday, 23 June. Project partners include the First Coast Guard District, MIT Sea Grant Program, MA Environmental Police, MA Maritime Academy, MA

Coastal Zone Management and others.

L. L. Bean will hosts its 24th Annual Paddlesport Festival on Saturday and Sunday, 25 and 26 June at Freeport, Maine.

As of 24 May the First Coast Guard District has suffered the loss of 5 paddlers - 1 kayaker (with PFD), 3 canoeists and 1 rafter. This is down from the 12 fatalities that had occurred as of this date in 2004.

#### **FIFTH COAST GUARD DISTRICT**

**Dennis Sens**, Recreational Boating Safety Specialist  
(757) 398-6204 - phone  
[dsens@lantd5.uscg.mil](mailto:dsens@lantd5.uscg.mil)

#### ***Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Virginia, District of Columbia***

Boating safety initiatives continue to abound throughout the Fifth Coast Guard District. As a note to the boating safety partners, I have curtailed my boating safety travel schedule until about August due to the work-up and kidney transplant for my 13-year-old daughter. As a result, I unfortunately missed the recent Southern States Boating Law Administrators Association (SSBLAA) conference held in early May and will be unable to attend the upcoming Northern Association of Boating Administrators (NABA) in June. Please know that I remain committed to working and strengthening professional relationships with BLAs, as well as partnering on RBS initiatives that keep boating enjoyable for everyone.

The Fifth District Commander, Rear Admiral Sally Brice-O'Hara has been particularly busy on the boating safety front. She helped kick-off National Safe Boating Week with her participation at Boating Safety Cooperative Agreement signing ceremonies at Coast Guard Station Manasquan Inlet and Indian River Inlet. On May 20, the Admiral and Colonel Fuentes, Superintendent of the New Jersey State Police signed the Boating Safety agreement reaffirming each agency's commitment in partnership to keeping the New Jersey area waterways safe. The following day, May 21, Admiral Brice-O'Hara, Governor Ruth Ann Minner of Delaware and Secretary John Hughes of the Dept. of Natural Resources and Environmental Control were on hand at Station Indian River Inlet to sign the cooperative agreement and attend a boating safety open house.

Coast Guard units throughout the Fifth District are very busy with a wide range of boating safety related events and operations. Recreational boating safety patrols are in full swing as we enter the boating season, particularly during busy holiday periods. Coast Guard men and women will be reaching out to school children to educate them on water safety practices as well. Our Coast Guard active duty, reserve and Auxiliary are partnering in many areas including Vessel Safety Check stations, safety displays at large and small venues, and speaking to community organizations on RBS. The list of RBS related activities is impressive and truly reflects the dedication and commitment to reducing boating accident and fatalities by the Fifth District Team.

#### **SEVENTH COAST GUARD DISTRICT**

**Bruce R. Wright**, Recreational Boating Safety Specialist  
(305) 415-7057 - phone  
[bwright@d7.uscg.mil](mailto:bwright@d7.uscg.mil)

#### ***Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands***

A major media blitz orchestrated by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) zeroed in on Lee County, Florida. The boating safety campaign kicked off in conjunction with National safe boating week. The "I got the message" campaign targets recreational boaters with BE AWARE, WEAR YOUR LIFE JACKET, and DON'T OPERATE UNDER THE INFLUENCE.

RADM B.D. Peterman reports that between District 7 Active Duty Commands and Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotillas, a goal of 100% participation was obtained. Each Coast Guard unit provided a public awareness activity to highlight National Safe Boating Week.

A joint D7 and D8 Maritime Law Enforcement Seminar for the US Virgin Islands Department of Natural Resources Rangers is scheduled for 21-25 June in St. Thomas. Topics of instruction include: Vessel Documentation, Federal Safety Equipment requirements, Pollution / MSD's, and Boating Under the Influence.

## **EIGHTH COAST GUARD DISTRICT**

**Kevin Kelly**, Chief, Recreational Boating Safety  
(504) 589-6770 – phone  
[kkelly@d8.uscg.mil](mailto:kkelly@d8.uscg.mil)

**Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, West Virginia, Wyoming**

CAPT Joseph Castillo, Chief of Operations, will be the Keynote Speaker at the opening of the NABA Conference in Wichita, KS this month.

D7/D8 RBS Specialist will be conducting training in the US Virgin Islands this month. We will be covering a variety of topics including the NASBLA BUI Enforcement Training Curriculum, documented vessels, marine sanitation devices and on water exercises.

## **NINTH COAST GUARD DISTRICT**

**Frank Jennings**, Recreational Boating Safety Specialist  
(216) 902-6094 – phone  
[fjennings@d9.uscg.mil](mailto:fjennings@d9.uscg.mil)

**Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin**

Frank Jennings, RBS Specialist, will attend the Northern Association of Boating Administrators (NABA) Conference in Wichita, Kan., June 13-16.

The State of Ohio, Division of Watercraft, is providing all Ohio-based Coast Guard stations new radios from the Multi-Agency Radio Communications System (MARC). MARCs features an 800 Mhz digital, statewide, secure communications network, which can be accessed by public safety agencies, on land and offshore. The addition of MARCs radio technology to the Coast Guard's communications resource menu will greatly enhance inter-agency communications, vital to the success of homeland security, maritime law enforcement and search and rescue response. Upon final Coast Guard approval, installation of MARCs radios on Ohio-based Coast Guard small boats will begin.

Adm. Thomas Collins, U.S. Coast Guard Commandant and Canadian Coast Guard Commissioner, John Adams, will meet for a US/Canadian Coast Guard Summit in

Cleveland, June 16. During the summit, Adm. Collins and Commissioner Adams will discuss topics of mutual interest concerning maritime safety and response on the Great Lakes. They will also sign a binational agreement, aimed at strengthening cooperative efforts in providing services to Great Lakes recreational and commercial mariners. Twelve youth representatives of the Spirit of America Program, along with Coastie The Boat, will participate in the signing ceremony. The ceremony is scheduled to take place at the Coast Guard Cleveland moorings at 3 p.m.

The 6th annual North Coast Harbor Boating, Fishing & Seafood Fest (BFSF), formerly the Lake Erie Boating & Fishing Fest, is drops anchor June 10-12 at Voinovich Park, located behind the world-famous Rock & Roll Hall of Fame & Museum in downtown Cleveland. The event features Tall Ships, pirates, free PFD give-aways for kids and boating safety demonstrations.

Frank Jennings, RBS Specialist, will attend the Lincoln Electric Co. Safety Day, June 29, to provide boating safety literature, information and hands-on demonstrations for approx. 2,500 of the company's employees.

The 97th running of the Chicago Yacht Club "Sail Race To Mackinac Island" takes place July 16 - 20. Approx. 300 sailing vessels, 28 to 90 feet, will be participating.

The annual running of the Bayview Yacht Club "Bacardi Bayview Port Huron to Mackinac Island Race" takes place July 23 - 24. Approx. 250 to 300 sailing vessels will be participating.

The Ninth District BLA Workshop was postponed. It will be rescheduled for fall 2005.

## **ELEVENTH COAST GUARD DISTRICT**

**Paul Newman**, Recreational Boating Safety Specialist  
(510) 437-5364 – phone  
[pnewman@d11.uscg.mil](mailto:pnewman@d11.uscg.mil)

## **Arizona, California, Nevada, Utah**

In May the Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary welcomed the boating season with NSBW activities that included Open House events, search and rescue demonstrations, information booths, vessel safety checks and public contact throughout California, Nevada, Arizona and Utah. Highlights included:

- A lifejacket trade-in partnership with California Department of Waterways, Sam's Clubs and the Coast Guard Auxiliary in the Sacramento, San Francisco, Los Angeles and San Diego areas. Sam's Club donated the money for new lifejackets, while Auxiliarists checked lifejackets for serviceability and California Department of Boating and Waterways presented new lifejackets to appropriate boaters.
- Annual "Flare Day." Coast Guard units worked with local harbor patrols and the CG Auxiliary in Morro Bay, Santa Barbara, Oxnard, Marina Del Rey, Redondo Beach, Belmont Pier, and Corona Del Mar to have live demonstrations of flares and allow the public to turn in out-of-date flares.
- During Coast Guard boardings the public received free T-shirts, water bottles, key chains and brochures, supplied by California Department of Boating & Waterways.
- The CG Auxiliary coordinated with the Goodyear Blimp facility to display boating safety slogans on blimp flights throughout May.

## **THIRTEENTH COAST GUARD DISTRICT**

**Dan Shipman**, Recreational Boating Safety Specialist  
(206) 220-7257 phone  
[dshipman@pacnorwest.uscg.mil](mailto:dshipman@pacnorwest.uscg.mil)

### **Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington**

Washington State Governor Christine Gregoire signed the Mandatory Boater Education bill into law. Representatives from 35 different federal, state, local and private organizations were on hand to witness the signing of the bill. The coalition of organizations, headed by the Washington Alliance for Mandatory Boater Education, WAMBE, Northwest Marine Trade Association, and Recreational Boaters Association of Washington, RBAW, have taken the lead in the development and implementation of this legislation. All are to be commended! Starting in 2008, Washington Boaters, 20 years of age and under will be required to meet mandatory minimum boater education standards.

## **FOURTEENTH COAST GUARD DISTRICT**

**Kent Richards**, Recreational Boating Safety Specialist  
(808) 541-2161 – phone  
[krichards@d14.uscg.mil](mailto:krichards@d14.uscg.mil)

### **Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa, Northern Marianas**

National Safe Boating Week was very successful. Many people have signed up for boating safety classes and are enthused about learning principles of boating safety. Boaters are encouraged to have up-to-date Visual Distress Signals on their vessels and wear life jackets to be safety conscious.

The world looks bigger from the ocean. Carry a VHF radio and know how to use it, whenever you travel beyond one mile from shore.

Children need the best chance at life. Make certain that each child wears a properly fitted life jacket when boating.

Safety ideas are wanted for posters and flyers that will draw people's attention to some aspect of safe boating. Send ideas to Kent Richards, USCG, 300 Ala Moana Blvd., Honolulu, HI 96850-4982, or email to [krichards@d14.uscg.mil](mailto:krichards@d14.uscg.mil)

## **SEVENTEENTH COAST GUARD DISTRICT**

**Mike Swanson**, Boating Safety Coordinator  
(907) 463-2297 phone  
[mswanson@cgalaska.uscg.mil](mailto:mwanson@cgalaska.uscg.mil)

## Alaska

Mike Swanson (right), the 17th Coast Guard District Recreational Boating Safety Specialist and a retired Coast Guard Chief Warrant Officer, dons a life jacket on a Floyd Dryden Middle School student Friday at the Alaska Army National Guard hangar here during a two-day session where Coast Guard personnel taught boating and water safety to the students. (Official U.S. Coast Guard photo by Noreen Folkerts)



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## BoatU.S. Founder Honored by U.S. Coast Guard

By IBI Magazine/Michael Verdon

**R**ichard Schwartz, founder and chairman of the 590,000-member BoatU.S., was recently made an Honorary Commodore in the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary for his organization's efforts at promoting boating safety.

Schwartz received a Public Service Commendation from U.S. Coast Guard Commandant Thomas A. Collins and U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary National Commodore Gene M. Seibert for "Notable service to the U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, which has been of exceptional value to the recreational boating safety mission for over 20 years."



Collins singled out the work of the BoatU.S. Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water, and praised the Foundation for its "innovative assistance, grants and donations to protect and educate the nation's 70 million recreational boaters."

The Foundation's Children's Life Jacket Loaner Program has provided over 12,000 PFDs to children, and has awarded over \$600,000 to local boating safety organizations. It has also distributed over 1 million boating safety brochures during the past 20 years.

Seibert said Schwartz helped BoatU.S. persuade Congress to release more than 4 billion in federal fuel taxes paid by boaters during the past two decades to fund a national boating safety program. The boat owners' association also helped establish the federal Boating Infrastructure Grant program, which has provided 32 million toward the development of transient access facilities for cruising boats.

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## Quick Thinking Saves Two...But Boater Education Would Have *Prevented* Situation

By Wayne Spivak  
National Press Corps  
United States Coast Guard Auxiliary

**N**ew York - "Stranded boaters use mirror as SOS." Two hapless sailors stranded in Jamaica Bay used a mirror and an orange flag to signal an NYPD helicopter that happened to be overhead on a training exercise. *Daily News*, May 17, 2005. Reported by Kerry Burke and Robert F. Moore.

Boating during this time of the year in the waters around New York is a delight, mainly because there are very few boats on the water (there's still a chill in the air and the water temperature is usually in the 50's). The boating experience will change dramatically in a few short weeks when hundreds of thousands of boaters converge on the area's waterways to enjoy warmer temperatures.

But I digress... Our "hapless sailors" left their marina without a VHF radio, and their cell phone batteries were dead. They also forgot to check the gas level in their boat, and consequently ran out of gas.

The crew fired the three flares they had on board to signal for help. Unfortunately, all three of them (the legal minimum) were fired into the water, not the sky. Unsuccessful in their flare efforts, one of the crew left the vessel to swim ashore. According to Lt. Kenneth Solosky of the NYPD Aviation Unit, the simmer was a mile from land when he was found and "there was no way (he was) going to survive that swim."

Luckily, one or both of the remaining crew figured out how to use their emergency mirror and flag, which probably saved their companion's life.

So, where did our "hapless sailors" go wrong? Since National Safe Boating Week was May 21st - 27th, we in the U.S. Coast Guard hope that the boating public learned from the mistakes made by our trio.

The Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary strongly advise all mariners to carry a VHF radio (which, although highly recommended, is not a legal requirement). Cell phones are NOT the communication device of choice. Coverage on the water is spotty at best, and if you put out a call for help, only the other party can hear you. With a VHF radio, everyone in range listening to Channel 16 (the emergency channel) will hear your call for help. Moreover, the Coast Guard can use radio direction finding equipment (RDF) to pinpoint your location.

Before leaving your dock, you should always do a check of essential boat systems, including your fuel levels. Other items to check are your emergency equipment, including flares, mirrors, and fire extinguishers to name a few.

You should also know the proper way to use pyrotechnics (flares). You can learn this in a Boating Safety Course. When firing a flare gun or lighting a hand flare, take great caution. If improperly used, a flare could cause a fire on your boat, injure someone, or, as happened with our crew, be completely ineffective.

NEVER leave your vessel unless it is on fire or about to explode. Your vessel is larger than you are, and it is much easier to find a vessel in any body of water. You are even much safer sitting in or on top of a capsized boat, than floating or swimming in the water.

Everyone on your boat should always wear a life jacket. More often than not, accidents happen so fast to reach for a stowed life jacket.

The Coast Guard's "You're In Command. Boat Responsibly!" campaign urges all boaters to take a Boating Safety Course, get a free Vessel Safety Check, avoid boating under the influence, and most importantly... always wear a life jacket!

For more information on Boating Safety Courses, Vessel Safety Checks, or the Coast Guard Auxiliary, visit [www.cgaux.org](http://www.cgaux.org) or call 1-877-875-6296.

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## National Safe Boating Week Activities in FL

**O**n Tuesday, May 17, a group assembled by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission attended a Cabinet meeting with a delegation headed up by Kenneth Haddad, Executive Director. A proclamation was read, and the delegates shook hands with the Cabinet, including Governor Jeb Bush. Attending were: Joe Kennedy, P/C/C USPS; Bill Griswold, Past Chair NSBC; Lou Denunzio, DSO-PA 7 CGAux; Chris Edmonston, Boat/US Foundation; and a representative from the Florida Marine Trades Association.



Later that morning, a press conference was held at a nearby park. Three Tallahassee TV stations were on hand to interview participants and witness a short inflatable life jacket demonstration.

### *Lee County Boating Safety Planning Meeting*

On Thursday, May 19, the initial planning meeting for the Lee County Boating Safety Campaign was held in Cape Coral. It was attended by Captain Denis Grealish and Captain Richard Moore, FWC, representatives from at least 10 local law enforcement agencies, National Fish and Wildlife Representatives, local Auxiliary and Power Squadron volunteers, and a reporter from the local newspaper attended.

Lee County has a population of a half million people and 48,000 registered boats. The campaign was designed to combat consistently high boating accident (and manatee accident) numbers. It will focus on three key areas: awareness of surroundings, life jacket wear, and alcohol impairment.

An accident report analysis revealed that the target population for the campaign is males age 36 and up who live in Lee County and operate a boat under 26 feet. FWC hired a professional marketing agency to assist in developing video, TV, radio and print announcements. The campaign, which is a model program, will run through Labor Day. The lessons learned will help expand additional campaigns to other areas of concern in the state, namely the Keys, Dade and Broward Counties.

### *Media Day*

On Friday, May 20 (Media Day), video trucks arrived from Cape Coral and Ft. Myers stations. Interviews were held, pamphlets were passed out, and reporters and camera operators boarded law enforcement boats provided by various agencies. The stations were even able to get footage of a Vessel Safety Check performed by Herb Hanson, CGAux DSO-VE7, and Paul Clarcq, Cape Coral Power Squadron.

### Canadian Safe Boating Council PSAs Now Available

Please be advised that all radio PSAs (in both English and French) are available online for your review and downloading. In addition, low-resolution samples of the new television PSAs are available for viewing.

Please visit the Canadian Safe Boating Council Web site at [www.csbc.ca](http://www.csbc.ca).

Once again the Canadian Safe Boating Council thanks you for your support.

For further information and details contact:

Mike Gridley  
Marketing Manager - Safety  
Producer - PowerBoat Television  
Dual Media Productions Inc.  
T. 905-989-0948 Ext 235  
F. 905-989-0950  
C. 705-791-1687

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## Tell a story... save a life

By Paul Newman  
Recreational Boating Safety Specialist, District 11

**H**e was two years old, blond curls dancing in the breeze, smiling at his dad holding the home movie camera and giggling as the water splashed his feet. His six-year old brother, at the helm of the outboard engine, steered the wooden skiff on the rippling waters of the lake. The boys' mother dangled her feet over the starboard bow, splashing the water as it raced beneath the boat. She held her youngest son's hands as he perched on the tops of his mother's feet... outside of the boat. Yes, he was doing a form of backwards barefoot skiing, using her feet for skis! Dad panned the camera around the boat at the smiling faces of his children. There was not one lifejacket onboard.

Fast forward 20 years and the two-year old is now a harbor patrol officer in the middle of a water rescue, pulling a cabin cruiser and its occupants off the jetty at the entrance to Mission Bay in San Diego. Large waves pound the disabled vessel against the rocks as a frantic family calls out the name of their son. A couple of days later the harbor patrol officer found his body a mile offshore. He had not been wearing a life jacket.

One story ended tragically; one ended with a funny home movie. We can, however, learn from both. It's been said that confidence is what you have before you know all the facts. My mother was confident that holding my hands tightly was enough to keep me from being swept under the skiff at two years old. The father of the drowned boy was confident he could handle the cabin cruiser in rough seas. He was confident his family was safe. Both stories have many lessons hidden. Using tragic stories and anecdotes helps people get the messages of boating safety. People listen to stories: not dry data. You probably have a story or two of your own that might help a friend remember to use a lifejacket or buy a new fire extinguisher.

As you talk to friends, family and the public... always have a story to tell. People will remember the point of a story much longer than statistics. So be a storyteller. Be a lifesaver.

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June 2005 | Issue No. 5

## ACA 125th Anniversary Leadership School and Encampment

**T**he American Canoe Association is pleased to announce the ACA 2005 Paddlesport Leadership School and Encampment. This unique event will take place in Prince William County, Virginia, July 30th through August 3rd, and will include a wide range of programs and activities encompassing paddlesport education, stewardship and recreation programming.

Mark your calendars for this special event, which will conclude with an ACA Birthday Bash in celebration of 125 years of service to the paddlesport community. Program details will be released soon!

What: ACA Paddlesport Leadership School and Encampment

When: July 30 – August 3, 2005

Who: Paddlers! ACA members and guests! Trip Leaders! Guides! Youth Leaders! Anyone interested in gaining knowledge about paddlesport safety, instruction, access, water trails, and programming!

Where: Prince William Forest National Park, Triangle, Virginia (approximately 30 miles south of Washington D.C.) [www.nps.gov/prwi/](http://www.nps.gov/prwi/)

Activities will originate at Mawavi Camp (camp 2), a historic CCC camp with sleeping cabins (sleeping 2-6), electricity, showers and centrally located restrooms. Mawavi Camp has access to a small lake for flat-water activities and is within easy driving distance to whitewater, water trails, coastal areas, and the greater Washington D.C. area.

Sleeping cabins are available for participants based on confirmed registrations. Per National Park regulations, no tents are permitted in the Camp Mawavi area. Camping is available off-site at an additional charge.

The three-day/four-night event includes educational programs on water trails, river cleanups, event planning, risk management, and safety resources. ACA Instructor Certification classes in all Introductory and Essentials level curriculum will be offered. In addition, evenings will feature cookouts, film festivals, team building exercises, paddlesport legends, and the ACA's 125th Anniversary Birthday Bash! Details and pricing will soon be available at [www.acanet.org/leadershipschool.htm](http://www.acanet.org/leadershipschool.htm).

Prerequisites: Several courses have enrollment prerequisites. All persons participating in the ACA Paddlesport Leadership School and Encampment must sign a waiver and agree to follow camp rules. All persons participating in water activities must agree to wear a properly fitting life jacket while on or in the water.

Program Cost: To be announced.

E-mail Pamela Dillon, ACA Executive Director at [pdillon@acanet.org](mailto:pdillon@acanet.org) for additional information.

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