

water safety journal



Vol. 16 No. 1

Winter 2001

2001 International conference NWSC 'Golden Anniversary' looms'

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Preparations are well under way for this spring's International Boating and Water Safety Summit, which coincides with the 50th anniversary celebration of the founding of the National Water Safety Congress.

The April 9-12 gala event will be headquartered at the Opryland Hotel, and attendance is expected from around the world.

"I extend an invitation to all boating and water safety professionals, especially those looking for career development opportunities, to consider attending this year's summit," said Steve Fairbanks, president of the National Water Safety Congress, event cosponsor. "We have educational sessions with six tracks — something for everyone."

"This year's summit location of Nash-

ville should yield a record number participants from all 50 states," predicted Virgil Chambers, executive director of the National Safe Boating Council, cosponsor of the Summit. "The summit will be the pinnacle of boating and water safety meetings for the year 2001."

The summit will feature a multitrack program aimed at the anticipated broad audience. Boating and water safety professionals and specialists from across the United States, Canada, Australia and Europe are reportedly planning to attend.

Breakout sessions cover such things as personal watercraft operation, hunting and fishing safety on the water, and canoeing and kayaking.

An additional highlight of this year's event is the NWSC's 50th Anniversary celebration which includes a luncheon cruise on the *General Jackson* river boat.

Expanding the scope this year's summit will be the Golden Anniversary observance of NWSC's founding. Created in 1951 following a tragic boating accident on Tennessee's Calfkiller River, the Water Safety Congress of the Tennessee and Cumberland river valleys originally included only representatives from the Tennessee Valley Authority, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and American Red Cross.

But the makeup of that group expanded rapidly. Within five years, the organization had expanded to include half of the states, and in 1958, the name was changed and shortened to "National Water Safety Congress." Outreach to nonmember states continued, and involvement by other organizations also grew.

Over the years, NWSC has begun networking with organizations of similar interest, not only here but in other countries. Such groups include the National Safe

COE's 'Ranger Willie B. Safe' covers water safety bases

POPLAR BLUFF, Mo. — It is going to be a very busy winter and spring for the Corps of Engineers' local "water safety persona," Ranger Willie B. Safe, confirmed Lake Wappapello Park Ranger Andrew Jefferson.

After receiving the Water Safety Region 6 Award at the 2000 International Boating Water Safety Summit (IBWSS) in Las Vegas, Ranger Willie was officially proclaimed the St. Louis District Safety "Icon" this year.

Unique about the Willie B. Safe persona is that he is not a mascot, nor a live person. But as an icon his "assistants" have been spreading the water safety message with considerable success. Jefferson said the next few months will likely see that success spread.

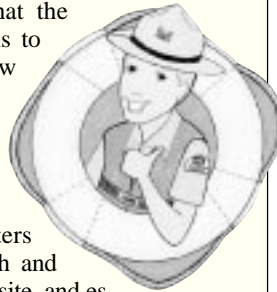
"Since boating is a year-round aquatic activity, Ranger Willie's safety message also targets waterfowl hunters as well as fishermen," Jefferson reported. "Several of his team members will staff booths at sport shows, career days, fairs, and participate in parades and other special community functions. During the Festival of Lights Christmas Auto Tour at

Wappapello Lake, his helpers, along with Santa's helpers and the Wappapello Lions Club, will join forces to make the event and holiday season safe and enjoyable."

He noted that the

plan for 2001 is to develop new Willie B. Safe products such as clip art, bumper stickers, mouse pads, calendars, posters (in both English and Spanish), a website, and establish new safety partners to assist in producing these products. Plans are already underway for Ranger Willie and Ronald McDonald to share space on tray liners at several locally owned McDonald's Restaurants in southeast Missouri in the spring and summer, Jefferson said. Willie B. Safe computer terminal screen savers will be sent to schools and other Corps of Engineers districts across the U.S., he added.

In addition, a Willie B. Safe safety message is placed in a St. Louis District



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President's Column

by NWSC President Steve Fairbanks

"Too many times when you run a race you're looking over your shoulder. Don't worry about it. Put your head down and you go like crazy. If you win, you win. If you don't, you don't. At the end, if you've laid it all out there and you've got nothing else to give, then what's the issue?" — Mike Martz, Head Coach, St. Louis Rams

It seems that everywhere you look some organization involved in boating and water safety is negotiating a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with some other boating and water safety organization.

The National Water Safety Congress has also been active in this arena, signing an MOU with the National Safe Boating Council (NSBC) this past April. We are also negotiating with the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) on an MOU that would result in increased cooperation and interaction with the law enforcement side of the boating and water safety effort. By the time this article goes to print, it is my hope that such an agreement will be signed and in effect for both NASBLA and the Congress.

I felt it would be appropriate to address the issue of MOUs and give my views as to the reasons behind the National Water Safety Congress pursuing such agreements with other agencies.

In its simplest form, an MOU is an agreement between two agencies or organizations to seek common ground and work together to find solutions to mutual problems. The real value of an MOU lies in not the specific language of the agreement, but rather the desire of two organizations to work together cooperatively. The efforts of two organizations working together show the public and other governmental and private agencies that we are truly committed to solving problems. In our case, these issues and/or problems are concerning boating and water safety on both a regional and national scale.

Secondly, the conclusion of an MOU between organizations with similar but not identical missions shows that we

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Plot your 'Golden Opportunities' from these courses at Summit 2001

The summit will be chocked full of learning opportunities presented in a variety of formats. Scan through the list below to plot Your Golden Opportunities.

- **Communicating with Congress - Effectively and Legally** by Joan Bondareff, Dyer, Ellis & Joseph
- **Can We Prevent Accidents?** by Bill Gossard, National Transportation Safety Board
- **Navigate Your Way Through an Effective TV and Radio Advertising Campaign** by Ann VanBuren, Idaho Dept. of Parks & Recreation
- **The Complete Boater Education Package for 2000 & Beyond** by Tim Spice of Texas Parks & Wildlife
- **Contingency Plans for Marine Events** by Ed Carter, Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency
- **Shoreline Management Plans** by Jon CoFrancesco & Brian Romanek, FERC
- **These Kids ... These Geezers ... What Am I Going to Do?** by Michael Smith, Boat U.S.
- **Same Boat but Different Strokes for Different Folks - Adaptive Paddling Programs for Persons With Disabilities** by Elaine Mravetz, Highland Local Schools of Sharon Center, OH
- **Quiet Death on the Lake - Boat-related Carbon Monoxide Poisonings** by Jane McCammon, National

Institute for Occupational Safety & Health

- **PFDs On Parade** by PFDMA members
- **Drowning Investigations** by Ron Rhinehart, Jeff Ellis and Associates.
- **The National Outreach Strategy for Recreational Angling & Boating: Accomplishments and Expectation** by Bruce Matthews, Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation
- **SAR Cooperation - Between Professional and Volunteer Organizations** by Leonardo Lella, Italy Institute of Navigation
- **Technology in the Classroom: Are You Ready?** by Chris Calhoun, Butler Community College
- **Surviving Implementation of a Mandatory Education Program** by Kendra Callahan, Oregon State Marine Board
- **Alternate Delivery Methods of Boating Safety Programs** by Peter Garapick, Canadian Coast Guard
- **The USCG-Auxiliary Vessel Safety Check Program** by Jesse Harrup, USCG Auxiliary and others
- **Downstream Warning Systems: What's Working and Why** by Tom Plante, Wisconsin Electric Power
- **People Do the Stupidest Things**, a panel discussion
- **Stumped Again** by Keith Bryant, Southern Company Generation

Summit 2001

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Boating Council, National Association of State Boating Law Administrators, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and United States Power Squadrons.

Carl Garner, NWSC Region 5 vice president, has predicted that this year's conference could produce the largest attendance ever. It is fitting, he explained, that NWSC should hold its 50th anniversary observance in the city where the organization was founded. Though he was not one of the original members, Garner has been involved with NWSC for many years. He is possibly the longest-serving member of the Congress.

More information on the Summit is found on the NSBC web page: www.safe-boatingcouncil.org, or call 740-666-SAFE or email Safe.Summit@verizon.net.

water safety journal

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Summit 2001: Your Golden Opportunity

Sunday, April 8

Golf Scramble

Opening Reception & Exhibition 6-8 p.m.

Monday, April 9

• *Opening General Session 8-11 a.m.*

Master of Ceremonies, Ed Carter

Welcome from Steve Fairbanks,
President, National Water Safety
Congress (NWSA) and William
Selden, Chair, National Safe Boating
Council (NSBC)

Other Introductions and Announcements:

Welcome from the United States Coast
Guard

Remarks by other dignitaries;

Break — Exhibits Open

General Session — National Boating
Safety Test

11 a.m. — Load Buses for General
Jackson Riverboat

11:30 a.m.-2:15 p.m. — All Aboard -
General Jackson Riverboat for cruise
and Awards Luncheon.

• *General Session II: 2:30-3:30 p.m.*

**The National Outreach Strategy for
Recreational Angling & Boating
Accomplishments and Expectation**
by Bruce Matthews, President &
CEO, Recreational Boating and
Fishing Foundation

3:30-3:45 p.m. — Break — Exhibits
Open 3:45-6 p.m.

International Speaker Forum

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Meeting
FERC/Hydropower Group Meeting
Town Hall Meeting — Discussion of
Issues

Tuesday, April 10

Concurrent Breakout Tracks (select from

International Boating and Water Safety Summit 2001 National Water Safety Congress' 50th Anniversary April 8-12

these 5 tracks):

Education & Boating Safety
Outreach & Awareness Education
Risk Management & Accident
Prevention
Waterways Management
Law Enforcement/Boating Under
the Influence

8-8:50 a.m. Breakouts — Sessions A

9-9:50 a.m. Breakouts — Sessions B

9:50-10:20 a.m. Break — with Exhibitors

10:20-11:30 a.m. Breakouts —

Sessions C

11:30 a.m. Load Buses for Nashville
Shores

Noon - 4 p.m. Bar-B-Que

On-the-Water Events & Demonstrations

Wednesday, April 11

Concurrent Breakout Tracks (select from
these 5 tracks):

Education & Boating Safety
Education Outreach & Awareness
Risk Management & Accident
Prevention
Communications
Law Enforcement/Boating Under
the Influence

8-8:50 a.m. Sessions D

9-9:50 a.m. Sessions E

9:50-10:10 a.m. Break

10:10-11 a.m. Sessions F

11:10 a.m.- noon. Sessions G

Noon-1 p.m. Lunch, On Your Own

CLOSING GENERAL SESSION 1-4 p.m.

• **Boating Safety Interventions for
Anglers & Hunters** by Chris
Edmonston, Program Administrator,
BOAT U.S. Foundation.

• **Personal Flotation Device
Manufacturers Association —
Everything You Want to Know About
PFDs, and Then Some ...** coordinated
by Charles Kearns, Stearns, Inc. and
Scott Swanby, Sporting Lives.

• **Preview: 2001 North American Safe
Boating Campaign** by Virgil Chambers,
National Safe Boating Council Executive
Director

AWARDS BANQUET 6:30-10 p.m.

Thursday, April 12

Post Conference Meetings 8 a.m.-noon.
NWSA Board of Directors' Meeting
(Board Members Only)

9 a.m.-5 p.m. NSBC Instructor Training
Course (special registration fee
required)

1-2 p.m. Summit Advisory Committee
Wrap-Up (Committee Members Only)

Friday, April 13

8 a.m.-5 p.m. NSBC Instructor Training
Course, continued.

Lodging and Transportation

Opryland Hotel and Conference Center will house delegates, all General and Breakout sessions, Registration and Exhibits. Bus service to two events outside Opryland will originate from the complex.

Room reservations should be made directly with Opryland, (615) 889-1000, using the Summit discount code (N-WASAF) for the Summit block and special Summit rates. Rates (not including tax) are \$90 per night Traditional Room and \$130 per night for Garden Terrace Rooms.

American Airlines and Southwest Airlines offer special discounted rates. For American, call 800-433-1790 (5 a.m.-12 a.m. CST) and refer to STARfile S6141A1. For Southwest, call 800-433-5368 and reference J1101.

Summit Registration

Registration forms and information are available on-line under summit information on the National Safe Boating Council web page, www.safeboatingcouncil.org

Complete and submit your registration to: International Boating and Water Safety Summit, P.O. Box 273, Ostrander, OH 43061, or fax form to 740-666-1145. Registration forms must be postmarked or faxed no later than Sunday, March 25, 2001 to obtain the discounted preregistration fee of \$295. Registrations received between March and the Summit will be processed on site. On-site registration fee is \$345.

Printed, Video and Radio PSA Contest

Public service announcements (PSA) and printed material carrying the boating and water safety message are always of interest at the Summit. You are invited to bring or send your organization's favorite video &/or radio PSA and printed piece (two copies of each item.)

The top three videos will be viewed in a general session. Printed items will be displayed. Favorites in each category will be determined. Specifications and details will be at the Summit information area of NSBC's web page, www.safeboatingcouncil.org.

Children find water safety a hands-on experience

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. — In an effort to bring the water safety message to elementary school children in Springfield, park rangers from Little Rock and Kansas City districts teamed up to present a two-day program at Bass Pro Shop Fish and Wildlife Museum.



WS4: Stockton Lake park ranger Ken Wenger watches as a student tries to grab pennies out of a container of ice water. Wenger demonstrated how fast hypothermia can set in by filling one container with tap water and one with ice water and inviting the children to see how the temperature differences make it more difficult to grasp the pennies.

Park rangers Greg Oller from Table Rock Lake in the Little Rock District, Ken Wenger from Stockton Lake and Danny Sandersfeld from Truman Lake, both in the Kansas City District, presented their water safety programs to approximately 500 first and second graders.

Willie B. Safe

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monthly publication *Espirit*, which is available to all district office and field personnel including rivers, locks and dams. His safety message will continue through the winter and well into next summer.

Ranger Willie B. Safe has been around since April 1997. He was the brainchild of two student park ranger trainees at Wapapello Lake.

For more information concerning the Ranger Willie B. Safe Campaign, please contact the Wappapello Lake Project Office at (573)222-8562 or HC2 Box 2349, Wappapello, MO 63966, or reach Jefferson via e-mail at: Andrew.Jefferson@mvs02.usace.army.mil.

Sandersfeld explained the importance of learning to swim, swimming with a buddy and wearing a life jacket. As children began to ask questions, other topics also were discussed.

“Several other safety ideas also were discussed, such as riding in a boat, diving into water and different colors of life jackets,” Sandersfeld said.

Wenger’s program covered hypothermia and boating safety. To help the kids remember what hypothermia is, Wenger filled two containers with tap water. He put ice into one of the containers and challenged volunteers to see how many pennies they could take out.

While no one had a problem getting pennies from the tap water, most of the kids could not even pick up one penny from the ice water.

“This shows you how quickly hypothermia can hit. It shows you don’t have much survival time if you fall into the water when it is cold outside,” Wenger

said. “You only have minutes before you become unconscious.”

For the boating safety portion of his program, Wenger picked five volunteers to take a pretend boat ride. He set up five chairs, one for the captain and four for the passengers. Under some of the chairs was a worn out life jacket, a good life jacket, a throwable seat cushion and a ski belt. One chair had nothing under it. Some of the items were tied to the chairs.

The person riding up front was the captain, in charge of “driving” the boat. All the passengers pretended to wave to their friends as they cruised down the lake having a good time.

“I would say, ‘Look out for that log! Oh no, you hit it, and your boat is sinking! What are you going to do?’” Wenger asked.

After each child scrambled to get a life jacket from under their boat seat, Wenger analyzed their choice of life preserver and

talked about what was good and bad about each. One person ended up without a life jacket.

“This showed them how important it is to have an approved life jacket in good condition before getting on the water,” Wenger said.

Oller’s station at the program included information about safety around water, the importance of wearing a life jacket, the proper sizing of a life jacket and what to do if someone is in trouble in the water and needs help. He said that the children were very interested in life jackets and how they fit.

Several students tried on different types and sizes of PFDs, with the goal being for them to find one that would fit properly, Oller said.

He noted that the children were also very interested in learning more about hypothermia.

Terry Snowden at the Bass Pro Shop is responsible for helping coordinate such educational programs for the Fish and Wild-



WS1: Table Rock Lake park ranger Greg Oller talks to first and second graders about the importance of having the proper size life jacket. Oller’s demonstration prompted many children to try on his collection of life jackets to find their perfect fit.

life Museum. She said they are looking forward to working with the Corps again.

“The program was excellent and we want to do another one,” Snowden said. “I know a lot of the guys were real interested in doing some more programs, and we talked about it some when they were here. As soon as we get the chance, we’ll start planning for the spring.”

Snowden said that they were also interested in visiting the projects and working on programs there as well.

Moving water boat courses slated

BOISE, Idaho — The Bureau of Land Management is focusing on the best ways of moving its or other agency's people on moving water, with a pair of parallel courses offering specialized river training.

The first is its established Train the Trainer session, adding to its cadre of instructors teaching operation of motorboats on Class II rivers. The Train the Trainer session is an intense, hands-on program, with about 70 percent of the time in the field (and boats) and 30 percent in classrooms. Sessions are penciled in for the end of April to early May

The session is designed for Bureau of Land Management personnel who have taken the basic, 24-hour boat operator course and are trained to operate boats up to 26-ft. in slackwater conditions. About 400 people have graduated from the Train the Trainer program since its inception in 1991.

The BLM is one of two federal agencies offering training classes for motorboat operation on moving water, the other being the Army Corps of Engineers. While

the BLM class was developed for its own people, the program has and continues to accept students from county and state agencies as well as from other federal agencies. The program is not open to members of the general public.

Goal of the program is to keep a corps of instructors that can travel from region to region offering classes on a regional basis.

The BLM is in the process of developing a non-motorized vessel course for operations on moving water, involving canoes, rafts and other non-powered craft on up to Class IV rivers. Again, once launched this will be a program for BLM and other agency personnel.

It appears that the non-motorized course will be field-tested this year, with plans to offer it as a completed module next year.

Government agencies seeking further information about either course may contact Bill Hagdorn, outdoor recreation planner, Lower Snake River District, 3948 Development Ave., Boise, ID 83705, (208) 384-3459, FAX (208) 384-3493, e-mail bill_hagdorn@blm.gov.

Corps Rangers bring water safety classes to schools

It's back to school time for park rangers with the Army Corps of Engineers, but rather than being in the desks they're standing at the front of the room.

The work done by rangers from Greers Ferry Lake in Arkansas is typical of the water safety efforts. They'll reach about 400 students in six nearby elementary schools, concentrating on fourth grade classrooms. Their water safety message concentrates on swimming: never swim alone, only swim in designated swimming areas, not diving in shallow water, and

checking for obstructions before diving. In an associated topic, the rangers will discuss and illustrate proper PFD fit, use and wear. They'll also briefly touch on proper boat operation.

Why the fourth grade? Because Corps Ranger experience shows that fourth graders are receptive to water safety messages. Early spring is a good time for the water safety message. Schools welcome the outside specialists, students are starting to look forward to summer activities, and it tends to be a less hectic time for the rangers.

NSBC Receives USPS/ Chapman Safety Award

The National Safe Boating Council was awarded the prestigious United States Power Squadrons/Motor Boating Chapman Award. The award was presented at the United States Power Squadrons (USPS) Annual meeting in Orlando, Fla. The award is named after Charles F. Chapman, past chief commander of USPS and previous editor of Motor Boating & Sailing Magazine. Ms. Louisa Rudeen, editor-in-chief of Motor Boating magazine, and Lance Jensen, Chief Commander, USPS, presented the award.

The Council contributions to boating safety, including the coordination of National Safe Boating Week and the National Campaign, were noted reasons for this special recognition. Virgil Chambers, NSBC Executive Director, accepted the award on behalf of the members of the organization.

John Malatak of the USCG Office of Boating Safety, and an NSBC Board Member, also received an individual Chapman Safety Award for his lifetime of work in boating safety.

President's Column

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can put aside our differences and priorities and find common ground. There have been efforts in the past by some parties to "divide and conquer" when interfacing with the agencies and organizations which deal with boating and water safety issues. Cooperative agreements such as MOU's make it much more difficult for individuals and agencies to play one organization against another to further their own agenda.

The MOU with the National Safe Boating Council was a logical extension of the partnership that brought about the annual International Boating and Water Safety Summit. We should not be content to be satisfied with the success of the summit, but rather look for other new and innovative projects to collaborate on. An MOU provides the framework and the impetus to do just that.

The idea of an MOU between the National Water Safety Congress and NASBLA has been tossed around for several years. Although the primary composition of the two organizations differs significantly, boating education

...we can put aside our differences and priorities and find common ground.

and boating safety are two areas in which the organizations share a common interest. The purpose of the MOU between the "Congress" and NASBLA will be to strengthen cooperation in three major areas:

- Jointly pursue projects beneficial to the aquatic recreation public and recreational boaters, including initiatives funded under Wallop-Breaux;
- NASBLA assistance with development of the law enforcement track for the International Boating and Water Safety Summit;
- Identifying and developing opportunities to advance the study and application of multiple water management use conflict resolution through the revision and reprinting of the *Guide to Multiple Use Waterway Management*.

In summary, a Memorandum of Understanding is not only a symbol of cooperation, but also a foundation for successful partnerships. Only through such partnerships and cooperation will we achieve the goal of reducing water-related fatalities across the nation.

State, Community create Virginia Boating Safety Video

RICHMOND, Va. — The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) is working with the Smith Mountain Lake Water Safety Council to produce a video to educate both residents and visitors about safe boating on the lake.



(Left to right) Jeff Decker, Mel White, Ron Messina and Al Perdue work on the Smith Mtn. Lake boating safety video.

VDGIF Boating Education Coordinator Jeff Decker is serving as the point person for the project.

At 20,600 acres and with 500 miles of shoreline, Smith Mountain Lake is the largest lake located entirely in Virginia. Created in 1966 by the then Appalachian Power Co. to generate electricity, the lake

has since developed into a premier resort destination for anglers and boaters. Known for its huge striped bass and other species of fish, Smith Mountain Lake has hosted a number of fishing tournaments and is home to many fishing guides and sport fishermen.

VDGIF regularly stocks the lake with game fish, contributing to its reputation as one of the best all-around fishing spots in the eastern United States. There are three yacht clubs, more than 25 marinas along the shoreline and seven public boat landings on the lake.

The price for all this popularity is that the lake has the highest density of boat traffic in Virginia and consequently more boating accidents than any other impoundment in the Commonwealth. To address this, VDGIF and the Safety Council joined forces to develop a boating safety video.

Filming took place in October 2000 at the lake, utilizing a number of volunteers. In addition to Jeff Decker and VDGIF Regional Boating Education Coordinator Paul Howell, Al Perdue of the Smith Mountain Lake Coast Guard Auxiliary, and Cap-



On site filming of the Smith Mountain Lake boating safety video with Al Perdue being filmed by Ron Messina (with camera) and Mel White (left to right).

tain Ralph Brush, chairman of the Smith Mountain Lake Safety Council provided guidance to VDGIF videographer/producer Ron Messina and producer Mel White. Messina shot footage on the lake from the Virginia Dare steamboat and took aerial shots of the lake from an airplane flown by a member of the Smith Mountain Lake Pilots Club.

While editing was still underway as this issue went to press, the nearly 13-minute video is expected to cover information ranging from Virginia boating laws to required safety equipment and suggested equipment. Also covered are such

...the lake has the highest density of boat traffic in Virginia and consequently more boating accidents...

Life jackets theme of 2001 Safe Boating Campaign

Boat Smart from the Start. Wear Your Life Jacket" is the theme for the 2001 National Safe Boating Campaign, a key element of National Safe Boating Week May 19-25.

During National Safe Boating Week, members of the National Safe Boating Council, Coast Guard Auxiliary, U.S. Power Squadrons, the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators, the Army Corps of Engineers, the American Red Cross and other groups provide local exhibits, extensive media coverage and special programs on safe boating.

The NSBC will again focus its message on the wearing of life jackets. However, as with the past campaigns, "Boat Smart From The Start" allows for adaptation in developing other issues critical to local concerns. The Council says that others should feel free to

use the slogan to advance their own boating safety efforts.

The NSBC has made available a limited quantity of 2- by 3-foot vinyl banners displaying the Safe Boating Campaign logo, for groups, organizations, or individuals. Cost is \$50 per banner. Price includes shipping for NSBC members, nonmembers should add \$6 per banner. Order from the NSBC, by fax at (740) 666-3010 or e-mail at nsbcdirect@safeboatingcouncil.org listing your organization's name, shipping address, telephone, fax number, e-mail address, contact name and the number of banners being ordered. The banner(s) may be charged or invoiced upon order. These items are in limited supply. They are ideal for booth displays or to hang on the side of your boat during an in-water boat show.

recreational uses as personal watercraft, waterskiing, tubing and wakeboarding. The video will provide information about where to get fuel and where to pump-out and who to contact in emergencies. Smith Mountain Lake has some unique navigational markers and those will be featured in the piece. In addition, the video promotes attending boating safety courses.

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is responsible for producing the video and the Smith Mountain Lake Safety Council will oversee distribution. Plans are for the video to be completed in time to distribute to hotel rooms, rental houses, and other sites around the lake before the 2001 boating season.

Midwest Regional Water Safety Council wraps up another successful season

JOHNSON, Iowa — The Midwest Regional Water Safety Council wrapped up another successful spring and summer season this past year, and is looking ahead to more activity in 2001.

The council, one of the most active in the Midwest, completed a number of projects and has several others underway, said Steve Fairbanks, president of the National Water Safety Congress and a member of the Council.

Thanks to a grant from the National Water Safety Congress, the MRWSC was able to fund an awareness program for National Safe Boating Week in May. Funds from the grant were used to purchase Lifesaver candies and plastic bags with the council logo. These bags were stuffed not only with Lifesavers, but also coloring books from the Corps of Engineers, National Safe Boating Week stickers from the NSBC, water safety trading cards funded under a previous grant, and other items aimed towards kids.

These bags were distributed to five different lakes in Iowa with a program goal of giving out between 200 and 300 bags to youngsters wearing life jackets. The program proved to be so popular that almost 600 bags were distributed during National Safe Boating Week, Fairbanks reported.

Adults were also targeted, and operators who were wearing their life jacket and had made sure their passengers were wearing PFDs were given floating key chains with the MRWSC logo on them. Needless to say the adults appreciated the “give-aways” as much as the kids, and provided an excellent opportunity to promote safe boating and PFD wear. The leftover Lifesavers will be distributed to children attending Kid’s Safety Day sponsored by MidAmerican Energy. This will be the second year the company has sponsored this event, and exposes children age 6 to 12 to all aspects of safety including boating and water safety. The MRWSC will staff a booth at the event, and will stress the importance of wearing a life jacket and learning how to use the water in a safe manner.

The MRWSC has continued to conduct basic river rescue and basic ice rescue training in the region. The most recent

course was hosted by the Omaha Airport Authority, and was held in Omaha, NB at its request. There was concern about the lack of training of airport and area firefighters in river rescue, and the MRWSC conducted a class for 32 area fire and EMS personnel.

The big project currently underway is fund-raising for purchase of a remote controlled boat...

A previous river rescue course was held in Independence in April and Marshalltown was the site of an ice rescue course in February. Rounding out the training schedule of the MRWSC was the first ever Basic Ice Rescue Instructors Course held in Janu-

ary, in which 15 individuals were certified to teach ice rescue skills.

Education is also a mission of the MRWSC, and the organization is devoting more time and effort to our education outreach. The big project currently underway is fund-raising for purchase of a remote controlled boat, similar to those used so successfully by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, albeit with a twist. The MRWSC has spoke with Robotronics about making a remote-controlled boat, but as a personal watercraft.

There is significant need in Iowa for PWC education, and the council would like to conduct educational outreach programs using a remote-controlled PWC. Fund-raising is currently underway, with close to \$5,000 having already been committed towards an estimated total project cost of \$10,000.

Any questions about any of these activities can be addressed to Fairbanks at (515) 276-4656, ext. 226.

Utah focuses on carbon monoxide poisoning risks

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah — A major inquiry has been under way for some months regarding carbon monoxide poisoning in the wake of two fatalities on Lake Powell, and it has involved both federal and state boating safety specialists.

Earlier this year, youngsters swimming behind a houseboat on Lake Powell were overcome by exhaust fumes from an onboard generator. It’s not the first time this sort of tragedy has occurred on the lake — there have been nine such deaths since 1994 — and Woolley wants to bring attention to the problem.

The situation has already prompted officials at Glen Canyon National Recreation Area to issue a public alert on the potentially dangerous exposure to carbon monoxide by swimmers around the stern areas of houseboats. Glen Canyon Superintendent Joseph Alston told Water Safety Journal that seven of the nine carbon monoxide deaths were linked to houseboats, and all the victims were either on the back deck or in the water near the swim platform.

Utah Boating Law Administrator Ted Woolley, with the state’s Division of Parks & Recreation, is already working on a project that he hopes will focus public attention anew on

the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning. He plans to start that effort in the spring as boaters return to the lake.

What happens occasionally on Lake Powell, both Alston and Woolley explained, is that boat or other exhaust fumes are not carried away from an area because there is no breeze. Lake Powell has several very narrow arms, and because carbon monoxide is heavier than air, it tends to settle in pockets where there is no breeze to carry it away. Swimmers or boaters in the immediate area inhale the fumes as a result.

Alston said inquiries have been made to other Corps operations around the country, to see whether carbon monoxide fatalities are a problem elsewhere.

Woolley plans to create some decals this winter bearing a warning about carbon monoxide. These will be available for mounting on recreational boats, houseboats or personal watercraft.

“You put a decal like that somewhere on the transom,” Woolley said, “and it will be visible. We remind boaters about this in our boating basics course, and there are some pamphlets available dealing with carbon monoxide.”

Coast Guard honors Corps' Nutt for water safety education efforts

WALLA WALLA, Wash. — Lynda Nutt works each day as if someone's life depends on it — and it does. An outdoor recreation planner at the Walla Walla District, she is also the National Water Safety coordinator for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

To maximize the message of water safety, Nutt has sought partnerships with other agencies to get the word out. A recent effort with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary resulted in the presentation of a medal.

"The Coast Guard Auxiliary came to me with a water safety workbook for children that they wanted to partner with the Corps on producing," said Nutt.

"I convinced the Auxiliary that the Corps' National Water Safety Team could provide the energy and synergy to turn this product around in a short time, to a professional product that we could use in our life saving educational programs," said Nutt.

Within months, the booklet was redesigned and tested at 25 Corps recreation sites.

"The testing is very important, it tells you whether or not your target audience is going to get your message, and it was our ability to turn out a professional product in a short amount of time and have the ability to test it, that impressed the Coast Guard the most," said Nutt.

Nutt's efforts were recognized by the commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard, who presented her with a meritorious public service award for her support of water safety programs.

The award cites Nutt's "...strong support to the United States Coast Guard and Auxiliary ... Nutt's leadership was instrumental in developing an effective partnership ... to design, develop and produce two new watercraft safety courses for youth ... the courses are attractive, effective and contribute to the key objective of reducing injuries and fatalities to youth and adult's alike."



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NSBC offers video on angler, hunter safety

DELAWARE, Ohio — A video that addresses boating safety for anglers and hunters is now being offered through the National Safe Boating Council, according to NSBC's Virgil Chambers.

An updated version of an earlier award-winning film by Alan Madison Productions, the video is \$25 a copy when purchased through the NSBC regular price is \$49.95.

"We have no minimum purchase," Chambers noted.

Information is available at the NSBC website at: www.safeboatingcouncil.org. There is even a short video clip on-line.