



Carl Garner Receives First-Ever NWSC Lifetime Achievement Award

"Many of us were not even born when this individual began being actively involved in the cause of water safety," said Bobby Pharr, president of the National Water Safety Congress (NWSC), when announcing the recipient of nonprofit organization's first-ever Lifetime Achievement Award.

"Very few ever will accumulate the number of years this person has spent promoting safety on our nation's waters. Through his over 40 years with the Corps of Engineers and his over 35 years' involvement with the National Water Safety Congress, one can positively say he has contributed greatly to the cause," Pharr continued.

This praise was directed at Carl Garner, charter member of the National Water Safety Congress. Garner received the Lifetime Achievement Award during the International Boating and Water Safety Summit held April 18-21, 2004, in Panama City Beach, Fla.

New to the Congress, the Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes an individual for a lifetime of achievements in the efforts of water safety.

Garner's involvement with the Congress began in 1966 when he received

an award of merit from the nonprofit water safety organization. When he went to receive the award in Nashville, Tenn., he was asked to serve on the Congress's board of directors.

From 1967 to 2002, Garner put his heart and soul into helping make the Congress what it is today. He holds the distinction of being the Congress's longest serving board member. Garner's work in serving as chair of the site selection committee set the foundation for what the Summit is today. During his service, he has received the President's Award from the Congress multiple times. Though he does not currently serve on the board, he remains a valuable resource to those responsible for organizing the annual International Boating and Water Safety Summits.

In addition to his contributions to boating and water safety, Garner has received the Keep America Beautiful Award five times and is a recipient of the prestigious Boy Scouts of America Silver Beaver Award. Garner also holds the unique distinction of having a Corps of Engineers visitor center named after him.

"I respect Carl for not only what he has done for boating and water safety but for what the man he is, for his integrity, for his generosity, for his belief that there is good in everyone and for his never ending-energy in making a difference in this world," said Pharr.



NWSC President Bobby Pharr presents charter member Carl Garner with the organization's first-ever Lifetime Achievement Award. The award recognizes Garner's longtime involvement with the National Water Safety Congress and in boating safety. Staff photo

Training Program Developed on Accessible Marinas, Boating Facilities

In 2002, the United States Access Board added a new section to its ADA Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) covering access to various types of recreation facilities, including amusement rides, boating facilities, fishing piers and platforms, golf courses, miniature golf courses, sports facilities, swimming and wading pools, and spas.

Since this supplement addressed certain environments that had not been addressed by an accessibility standard or code before, the Board initiated outreach and training programs to educate interested groups and industries on the new requirements.

These guidelines are not yet enforceable under the ADA because they are waiting for adoption by the Department of Justice. However, the guidelines can be used as a source of interim guidance in achieving access.

As part of this effort, the Board has partnered with the Marina Operators Association of America (MOAA) to develop a free training program on criteria for marinas and boating facilities. This project is structured as a train-the-trainer program that provides participants with the tools to educate the operators of marinas and other boating facilities across the country.

The Board has developed a resource manual and a slide presentation for use by trainers. The first training session was held at the National Marina and Boating Conference in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, last February. Future sessions will be held in late spring and the fall.

The guidelines are available on the ADA website at www.access-board.gov. Additional information about training opportunities is also available on the ADA website or by contacting Mari Lou Livingood of MOAA at 202.721.1630 or at MLivingood@nmma.org.



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President's Column

By Bobby N. Pharr, NWSC President

It is with great honor that I write to you as the incoming President of the National Water Safety Congress. I am deeply moved and thank the board of directors for the confidence they have shown in me. I accept the position with humility because it is not an easy task. I pledge that all my actions will be sincere and from the heart for I truly believe in the work of our organization.

I feel particularly privileged to take over at this time because the Congress's past presidents have done so much to keep the Congress vibrant and at the forefront of our fields. I want to personally thank my predecessor, Ron Riberich, for his confidence in me. Under his leadership, the Congress has made enormous strides in improving the running of our organization.

The Congress has hired two staff employees – Cecilia Duer as executive director and Patricia Jablonski as our financial officer. We have a new corporate office located in Cleveland, Ohio. The Congress is very proud of what Cecilia has done so far. Her energy and enthusiasm for the job shows that she truly believes in our cause. She has given the Congress a new voice and contact point for those needing information on water safety issues.

We have also recently established several very important partnerships. One is with the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators, allowing us to go from a print version of the *Water Safety Journal* to an electronic publication, expanding our audience. We are very proud that Mercury Marine has become the official sponsor of the *Journal*.

We are supporting the United States Power Squadrons in the development of a new boating and water safety software program for children through a three-year grant program. When completed the software will be an exciting new teaching aid for children on all aspects of safe boating and water safety. A draft of the program should be completed this year.

Another exciting partnership is with Spirit of America Foundation. During the International Boating and Water Safety Summit in Panama City this April, the Congress signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the Foundation. Our goal is to expand the Foundation's outstanding water safety and boating safety education programs currently used in Ohio to each of the Congress regions across the nation.

I am delighted in the direction the Congress is heading. Over the road that Ron and other past presidents have paved and with the excitement, passion, and never-ending energy of Cecilia, I only have one worry, and that is holding on as the Congress moves into exciting new territories of promoting safety on the nation's waters.

I now would like to introduce the new officers of the Congress. At the April 22 board of directors meeting the following officers were elected. Paul Kennedy was selected as executive vice president. Paul will help me keep on track and at attention. I appreciate his accepting this position and look forward to working as partners knowing that what he lets me mess up, he will have to straighten out in two years when he takes the helm. In addition, Russ Minton was re-elected as executive secretary and Tom Plante will be putting on the shoes Toni Rushing has worn so well as executive treasurer. I wish Toni well as she moves on and thank her for all she has done for the Congress.

In addition, we have several new regional vice presidents this year. New to the board, Matt Zlocki is the new vice president for Region 1. Tom Plante will remain as Region 2 VP. Mac Wimbish will continue as Region 3 VP. Arlyn Hendricks was elected to replace me as Region 4 VP. Richard Droesbeke was re-elected as Region 5 VP. Another new board member, Randy Henry, will serve as the new Region 6 VP.

I want to thank each of the new officers for their willingness to serve the next two years providing leadership for our organization.

In addition to new officers, several new board members were elected at the general membership meeting on April 21. In addition to the ones I have already mentioned, I want

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Final Recommendations on Drowning Published

Death due to drowning worldwide is preventable in 80 percent of all cases, according to the doctors, rescuers and prevention specialists who met at the World Congress June 26-28, 2002, in The Netherlands.

The World Congress on Drowning was held to find ways to dramatically reduce the toll of drowning in the world, which is one of the leading causes of accidental death, particularly for children.

An important result of the international meeting, which was attended by more than 500 experts from all over the world, was the establishment of recommendations in the field of drowning prevention, rescue and treatment. The recommendations were prepared by task forces in the preceding years and extensively discussed by experts during the conference.

Implementation of each recommendation is expected to contribute to a reduction of the annual number of drowning (some 500,000 drowning deaths each year worldwide) and to the improvement of treatment.

All recommendations, together with the preparatory documents as consensus papers, reports of expert and research meetings, have been published in the *Handbook on Drowning*. The handbook can be ordered on the World Congress on Drowning website at www.drowning.nl.

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Summit Succeeds Swimmingly

The International Boating and Water Safety Summit (IBWSS), co-hosted by the National Water Safety Congress and the National Safe Boating Council, was a huge success. Over 500 representatives from the United States, Canada, Italy, Great Britain and Japan attended the annual conference to learn, share and improve their knowledge on boating and water safety.

Held April 18-21, 2004, in sunny Panama City Beach, Fla., the Summit offered partici-



At the Summit held April 18-21, 2004, attendees heard presentations from various speakers on current boating and water safety topics, including this presentation on homeland security by Michael Baron with the U.S. Coast Guard.

pants an abundance of up-to-the-minute boating and water safety information.

Capt. Richard Moore, boating law administrator for Florida, set the tone during his welcome address to the participants. Moore reminded everyone that boaters don't associate risk with their activity and urged everyone to do a better job at selling safe boating. He also challenged the audience to contemplate new ideas for safe boating.

And that's exactly what the gathered boating safety advocates did during the following three days.

During the general session, Admiral Jeff Hathaway complimented audience members for working together to improve boating safety. He said, "It's all about partnerships, we're right on track." Next he discussed boat-related carbon monoxide poisoning and how the issue is being addressed. Hathaway also discussed the Coast Guard's boating safety initiative

"You're in Command." This program was devised to serve as a focused package for reaching the boating public.

Lt. Scott Mason with the Coast Guard discussed the Coast Guard's Rescue 21 program. This serves as a maritime 911 system and has tremendously improved search and rescue capabilities.

Chris Edmonston with the BoatU.S. Foundation for Boating Safety & Clean Water, discussed the findings of research conducted by Responsive Management about marketing techniques.

Through focus groups and a national survey, Responsive Management found that most sportsmen consider themselves to be safe boaters, yet they wear life jackets only when they deem them necessary. While sportsmen feel that children should wear life jackets, they don't feel that PFD wear should be mandated for adults. They also don't think boating safety education should be mandatory for adults.



During the on-water demonstrations, Summit participants were given the opportunity to try out various vessels, including personal watercraft, kayaks, canoes, power boats and a sailboat. A big thank-you to Hunter Marine Company and JY Boats for supplying the sailboat for folks to try out.

The research found that television is the best way to reach sportsmen and that public service announcements are most effec-



Admiral Jeff Hathaway spoke about partnerships and the Coast Guard's "You're in Command" initiative during the opening session of the International Boating and Water Safety Summit. Photos by Douglas Golding, Ohio Division of Watercraft

tive when they give the facts and don't involve a lot of drama.

Participants also heard presentations on operation and management of beaches and the latest in personal flotation device technology.

Breakout sessions were available in five tracks: education, outreach & communication, waterway management, paddlesport safety, and law enforcement.

Presentations included the "Three Tragic Seconds" program by the National SAFE KIDS Campaign, an overview of *Critical Judgment II*, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers National Water Safety Program, Party Zones, the American Canoe Association's *Smart Start for Paddlers*, the National Safe Boating Council's *Boating Safety Side-kicks*, Homeland Security, Boat-Related Carbon Monoxide Poisoning and Paddlecraft Rescues.

A highlight of the Summit was the on-site water activities organized for Tuesday afternoon, which gave everyone a chance to try out various personal watercraft, paddlecraft, power boats and even a sailboat.

The next Summit will be held in Newport Beach, Calif., March 13-16, 2005. Information will be posted online as available at www.watersafetycongress.org and www.safeboatingcouncil.org.

Regional Award Winners Announced

The recipients of the National Water Safety Congress Regional Awards were announced during the International Boating and Water Safety Summit. They are as follows:

Region 1

Kim and Stew Leonard Jr., with The Stew Leonard III Water Safety Foundation, developed the first child's guide to water safety for children ages 2-6. This guide has assisted more than 10,000 children in learning to swim.

Region 2

Over the past two years, **Megan Hiebert** from Clinton Marina has taken 240 children through an innovative and educational two-hour program designed to teach them the principles of water safety. Most of the children are from urban boys' and girls' clubs and are in second through fifth grades.

Region 3

As president of all BellSouth Pioneers Chapters in Georgia, **Amber Jaynes** demonstrated her initiative and interest along with her support to the promotion of public water safety education throughout Georgia.

Region 4

Partners for Water Safety on Table Rock Lake, comprised of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Missouri State Water Patrol, promoted the wearing of life jackets by giving T-shirts to children and teens caught wearing life jackets on the lake.

Region 5

The **Lake Powell Water Safety Council** is a unique organization comprised of private businesses and government agencies working together to promote water safety and education within the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area in Utah and Arizona. These efforts are directed to reach more than one million visitors annually.

Region 6

Marty Law, with the Oregon State Marine Board, took the lead in developing "Great Rivers of the West -- A Boaters Guide" in partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Washington State Parks and the U.S. Coast Guard. The guide features current safety information as well as a historic map of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

Carbon Monoxide Research Efforts Earn National Award

Traditionally the National Water Safety Congress's National Award is presented annually to one individual, organization, firm or agency that has made a significant contribution to water safety issues/programs on a national scale.

However, this year the award went to two people who have made a significant contribution to bringing awareness to an important water and recreational boating safety issue – the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning.

Jane McCammon with the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health and Dr. Robert Baron, medical director for the National Park Service, received the National Award in recognition of their efforts to increase awareness of carbon monoxide in recreational boating fatalities.

McCammon and Baron have pioneered some of the best research in recent years in boating-related carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning.

In August 2000, the National Park Service joined with the Department of the Interior, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, and Coast Guard investigators to evaluate CO exposure among employees and visitors at Lake Powell, in Utah. They identified 111 boating-related CO poisonings which occurred on Lake Powell between 1990 and 2000.

McCammon's and Baron's efforts have been significant in increasing public awareness of this issue, their investigation and characterization of the poisonings resulted in extensive cooperation prevention efforts bringing government agencies together with boat and generator manufactures, boat management companies, and design engineers to find solutions to this critical safety issue.



NWSC Bobby Pharr presents the National Award to Dr. Robert Baron and Jane McCammon for their efforts to boost awareness of the threat of carbon monoxide poisoning on boats. Photo by Douglas Golding, Ohio Division of Watercraft

Toni Rushing Receives President's Award



Ron Riberich presents Toni Rushing with the 2004 President's Award in recognition of her continued hard work for the Congress. Photo by Douglas Golding, Ohio Division of Watercraft

Each year the National Water Safety Congress gives an award to recognize an individual whom the President feels has made the greatest contribution for the year.

This year outgoing President Ron Riberich presented the President's Award to Toni Rushing, treasurer for the Congress.

Not only has Rushing worked hard the past year but she has proven herself a valuable asset during all her years with the Congress.

Rushing helped Riberich considerably during his two-year term as president, as well as several previous presidents. She kept the presidents up-to-date on the Congress financials, compiled grant reports each year, helped tremendously with each year's Summit, among many other duties.

Coast Guard Boating Safety Initiative Moves to Phase II

By John Malatak

Chief, Program Operations Division, U.S. Coast Guard Office of Boating Safety

The U.S. Coast Guard's national boating safety initiative, known as "You're in Command," is moving forward full-throttle after a successful launch and the creation of initial marketing materials that have begun to brand the boating safety message.

"You're in Command" helps unify the four principles of Operation BoatSmart: Get a Vessel Safety Check, Take a Safe Boating Course, Always Wear Your Life Jacket, and Never Boat Under the Influence. The initiative brings resources and marketing assistance to present these principles more effectively to the boating public.

All Operation BoatSmart partners are encouraged to use "You're in Command" external marketing tools to reach not only the general boating public but also those boaters considered most at risk of being in a boating accident.

"You're in Command" materials have been delivered to the National Safe Boating Council, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and the United States Power Squadrons® for distribution and use in boating safety awareness programs. These materials may be viewed and downloaded from the "You're in Command" Resource Center at www.uscgboating.org.

Additional efforts are well under way to imprint the "You're in Command. Boat Safely!" message into the collective conscience of America's recreational boaters via outreach to boating-related media. Expect to see these efforts continue far into the future. They will grow to encompass broader media opportunities to promote the initiative.

"You're in Command" links us (boat-together. It is not an philosophy, which to explain to our safety partners and key components – take a boating safety der the influence, and check – are all compo-day," said Cecilia Duer, ex-Water Safety Congress. "It we come together to work as a team in this boating and water safety initiative. There is so much good information available to all of us ... We all need to walk the same walk and talk the same talk."

Strategic partnerships are being formed with the likes of well-known companies such as State Farm, who has embraced the "You're in Command" by encouraging their policy-holders to get a vessel safety check.

The initiative also has received the full support of Boater's World. The marine retailer recently sold and promoted "You're in Command" materials at some of the major boat shows. Boater's World intends to feature these materials in its stores nationwide.

Phase II of the initiative focuses on reaching hunters, anglers and paddlesport enthusiasts, i.e., those boaters who typically do not regard themselves as boaters and who, as a result, tend to dismiss boating safety messages. According to Coast Guard statistics, the number of fatalities among canoeists and kayakers declined from 101 in 2001 to 78 in 2002, but that number still accounts for nearly 11 percent of all boating-related fatalities reported that year.

The "You're in Command" initiative will continue to emphasize that boat owners and operators are responsible for their own safety and the safety of their passengers.

Overall boating fatalities rose from 681 in 2001 to 750 a year later. Another disturbing trend is the rise in fatalities in which alcohol was involved, from 34 percent in 2001 to 39 percent in 2002. And, the percentage of victims who drowned who were not wearing their life jackets remains unchanged at 85 percent for 2002. Particular emphasis will be given to never boating under the influence and the importance of wearing life jackets for hunters, anglers and paddlesport enthusiasts.



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Catchy Tune Promotes Life Jackets

This song was enjoyed by participants at the 2004 International Boating and Water Safety Summit.

PFD by the Vessel People (Sung to tune of "YMCA" by the Village People)

Young man, there's no need to drown
I said young man, you can float all around
I said young man, when your boat goes down
There's no need to be unhappy

Young man, there's something you
should know
I said young man, when you're out on a boat
You can be safe, and I'm sure you will find
Many ways to have a good time

(Chorus)

It's fun to wear your P-F-D
It's fun to wear your P-F-D
It has everything to keep you afloat
Always wear it when you're out on a boat

Young man, are you listening to me
I said young man, wear your PFD
I said young man, you can stay alive
But you've got to wear that one thing

No man, should drown himself
I said young man, don't leave it on the shelf
And just wear it, your PFD
And I'm sure you'll be happy

(Chorus)

Young man, they come in all types
I said, I don't want to hear your gripes
Just wear it, and you will survive
In the water, and that's no jive

One day, a "boat cop" boarded me
And said I hope, your access is easy
To a thing that's, called a PFD
If not then you can't be underway
It's fun to wear my P-F-D
It's fun to wear my P-F-D
You can keep yourself safe
You can have a big thrill
You can do whatever you feel

Lyrics by Mark Brown, Oklahoma
Highway Patrol

President's Column (cont'd from page 2)

to welcome the following new board members: Kenneth Alvey, Chief of Watercraft for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources; Alan Bland with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Beaver Lake; Ernie Lentz with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Mississippi; and John Punkiewicz with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Rock Island District. We all should be proud of the Congress for the caliber of leadership we have as our crew on this voyage.

The 8th Annual International Boating and Water Safety Summit held in Panama City, Florida, was absolutely a success. Our partners, the National Safe Boating Council, should be proud of what was delivered. The programs and speakers were great. Ed Carter, the Summit's emcee, was great, as always. He knows how to keep things on the light side (and a few other sides that I will not mention).

Monday morning's general session was opened by Richard Moore, Florida's boating law administrator. He shared his com-

mitment to improving boating safety by addressing Florida's risk group, males ages 30 to 55.

Admiral Jeff Hathaway with the U.S. Coast Guard Office of Boating Safety discussed the carbon monoxide poisoning issue and how it is being addressed. He expressed the importance of partnerships. He also discussed the Coast Guard's "You're in Command" program and the new America's Waterway Watch program, which is focused at both security and safety. It was very exciting to hear him talk about their program with the Labonte family and NASCAR.

Tom Griffiths of Penn State spoke on a new standardized beach warning flag system. Then there was a presentation on the new Rescue 21 system the Coast Guard is implementing. I could go on and on but there is just not room enough.

From breakout sessions on Safe Kids to balancing recreation and future development to cold water survival to paddlecraft rescue techniques, they were all great. I want

to thank the American Canoe Association for joining us in putting on a great event. Special thanks go to the Summit Advisory Committee and Karl Gebhart and Associates for a job well done on this year's Summit.

If you did not have the opportunity to join us at the Summit, you have another chance next year when the 9th Annual Summit is held at Newport Beach, Calif., March 13-16. Be sure to mark it on your calendar and join us. We plan to make next year even better.

In conclusion, I look forward to the new and exciting challenges ahead of me as the new National Water Safety Congress President. It is my hope and desire that you become involved in the Congress's work. We have many committees that, as a member, you can become involved with. If you are interested in serving on one of our committees, please contact Cecilia Duer or me. Please visit our website and learn of the many opportunities there.

Water, Boating Safety Remain in Forefront during Bicentennial Commemoration

With the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commemoration well under way, boating and water safety advocates continue dedicated efforts to maintain the safety of all those involved, including re-enactors, observers, recreational boaters, and more. Following is an excerpt from *Small Craft Advisory* magazine. The article is available in its entirety in the May/June 2004 issue of the publication and online at www.nasbla.org.

July 4, 1804, marked the first Independence Day observance west of the Mississippi.

Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, along with the fifty people traveling with them, celebrated the day by firing the keelboat's swivel cannon on the banks of the Missouri River just outside Atchison, Kansas, and enjoying an extra ration of whiskey.

This year's Independence Day will be celebrated with a bit more panache in the Greater Kansas City area. The event will include a soaring air show to a multi-voiced reading of the Declaration of Independence to spectacular displays of fireworks along the Missouri River.

Why all the excitement? In addition to marking our nation's 228th year of



Photo courtesy LewisAndClarkTrail.com/LLC

freedom, the Fourth of July holds extra significance this year as the 200th anniversary of Lewis and Clark's journey through this part of the country on their quest to find the Northwest Passage.

You're in Command (continued from page 5)

We at the Coast Guard cannot overemphasize how the success of "You're in Command" will depend very heavily upon the participation and ongoing support of all Coast Guard boating safety partners. Many of you are in the trenches every day interacting with the boating public, developing or enforcing boating safety-related policies in your area, and delivering boating safety instruction to recreational boaters.

The Office of Boating Safety looks forward to working with the National Water Safety Congress, Coast Guard Auxiliary, United States Power Squadrons, National Association of State Boating Law Administrators, U.S. Sailing, National Association of Marine Manufacturers Association, National Safe Boating Council and others throughout the "You're In Command" initiative.

By applying the well-branded and consistent boating safety messaging embodied in this initiative, we will all take safety awareness among recreational boaters to a whole new level. Please continue to support and promote this initiative, so that we can achieve our shared goal of reducing fatalities and accidents on our nation's waterways.