



Summit Attracts Favorable Reviews

Attracting over 350 registered attendees, this year's International Boating and Water Safety Summit focused on the future direction of boating safety.

The Summit is a cooperative annual effort between the National Water Safety Congress and the National Safe Boating Council. It is produced under a grant from the Aquatic Resources (Wallop-Breaux) Trust Fund, administered by the U.S. Coast Guard.

The Summit, held March 13-16, 2005, in Newport Beach, California, provided an international forum for the exchange of boating and water safety information.

Council; Bobby Pharr, president of the National Water Safety Congress; Ray Tsuneyoshi, boating law administrator from California; Virgil Chambers, executive director of the National Safe Boating Council; Art Gruenberger, the emcee for the Summit; and Glenn Zagoren, with the Newport Nautical Museum.

RADM James W. Underwood, director of Operations Policy with the U.S. Coast Guard, addressed the audience and spoke of the importance of partnerships. Mark Rosenker, vice chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, discussed the



During the general session, participants participated in a poll on various recreational water and boating safety topics. A summary of the poll results is available on page 5 of this newsletter.

Each registered participant received a special goody – a free inflatable life jacket. Special thanks to Mustang Survival for helping make this giveaway possible by providing a very generous discount.

These top-of-the-line inflatable jackets were used to help Summit attendees participate in many water activities. Over 200 attendees lined the beach on Tuesday, with their inflatable jackets, in an attempt to set a Guinness Book of World Record for the most life jackets inflated at one time.

The opening reception on Sunday night gave attendees an opportunity to network in the exhibit area, making new acquaintances and renewing longtime friendships.

Monday morning brought the official welcome, with remarks from Ed Carter, chairman of the National Safe Boating

During the general session, audience members participated in an electronic poll on a variety of recreational boating safety issues.

This highly anticipated polling was one of the most exciting and well-attended general sessions of the Summit. About 250 people belonging to local, state or federal organizations, the private industry, and nonprofit organizations in boating or water safety gathered to offer their experience, expertise and opinions on topics such as carbon monoxide, mandatory boater education, PFD wear, and the North American Safe Boating Campaign.

Some trends identified by the polling included encouraging partnerships with other organizations during the campaign,

increasing the amount of money spent on the campaign, encouraging the PFD manufacturing industry to promote life jackets more heavily, and increasing awareness of inflatable PFDs. To view the results of the polling session, visit <http://www.watersafetycongress.org>.

After discussing the poll, attendees gathered around the pool for several on-water demonstrations, including paddlesports rescue and safety techniques, small boat stability, cold water safety and PFD demonstrations.

That evening Summit participants were treated to a sneak preview of *Madison*. The movie tells the true story of a dying river town in Indiana, which in 1971 succeeded in being selected to host the Gold Cup of hydroplane boat racing.

Participants attended a variety of informative breakout sessions on Tuesday and Wednesday morning. Topics included award-winning boating education programs, tips for partnering, planning for emergencies, homeland security, ocean rescue training, and the perception of risk in boating.

Tuesday afternoon offered a chance to relax at the waterfront, watching and playing games such as water balloon volleyball sandcastle building.

During the closing general session on Wednesday afternoon, participants learned about the 2005 North American Safe Boating Campaign, new media outreach efforts, and developing effective public service announcements.

The Summit concluded Wednesday evening with an awards banquet, featuring international singer and songwriter Loreena McKennit. Loreena offered a touching account of her personal experience with boating safety.

Personal Flotation Devices (PFD) Forum and the importance of life jackets in recreational boating.



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*Bobby Pharr
President*

President's Report

The Ninth Annual International Boating and Water Safety Summit held in Newport Beach, California, was an absolute success. The programs and speakers were fantastic. Special thanks go to the Summit Advisory Committee and Karl Gebhardt and Associates for a job well done on this year's event.

Each year the Summit gets better and better. And each year we wonder how in the world are we going to match this next year. But somehow we always manage to find a way to surpass the previous year's event.

It is the efforts of many dedicated individuals who are truly focused on providing the premier boating and water safety educational seminar that make the Summit a success year after year. I would like to thank everyone who had a part in the Summit. While the coordinators play a big role in the success of the event, all their efforts would be for naught if no one attended. So thank you for participating. Your desire to improve yourselves and provide feedback to the Summit Advisory Committee is key to this success.

If you were unable to join us at the Summit, you have another chance next spring when the 10th Annual Summit will be held at Westin Innisbrook Golf Resort in Palm Harbor, Florida April 30–May 3, 2006. Be sure to mark your calendar and join us. We plan to make next year even better.

In continuing to improve our organization, the Congress has added additional staff over the last few years. These changes were reflected in our bylaws when the general membership met during the Summit in Newport Beach. In addition, we are reviewing our existing strategic plan in an effort to refocus and refine our direction in this ever-changing environment.

The first step of this will be a strategic planning session at the upcoming fall Board meeting. The session will help us focus on who we are and how we can better function as a board, achieve our mission and better serve you, our membership.

We look forward to the upcoming year and what it has to offer. There are many new initiatives in the water safety arena to explore. The Board's committees are geared up to look for ways to improve our work. It is my hope and desire that you – our membership – become involved in the Congress. We welcome and encourage all our members to join and participate in any of our working committees. This is an excellent opportunity to learn and be a part of the effort to make the nation's waters safer. 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 and resources available.

I hope that everyone has a safe summer. Remember: you can make a difference in saving lives on our nation's waters.

Nominations Now Accepted for Board of Directors Election

The National Water Safety Congress will be holding elections to select members for its Board of Directors for the 2006-08 term.

The Congress is accepting nominations now. Elections will be held in April during the NWSC Business Meeting at the International Boating and Water Safety Summit in Palm Harbor, Fla., April 30–May 3, 2006.



Board members serve for a two-year period and are expected to attend both a fall Board meeting and a spring meeting that is

held in conjunction with the Summit.

To be considered for election as a Board Member, candidates must be interested in promoting and furthering the cause of water safety throughout the nation.

If you are interested in serving on the Board and would like additional information please contact Joe Morgan, chair of the NWSC Membership Committee, at 202.502.6377.

To be put on the ballot for next spring's elections, submit a one-page resume to joseph.morgan@ferc.gov.

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

10th Annual International Boating and Water Safety Summit

APRIL 30-MAY 3, 2006

Safety-Minded Individuals Net Awards from Water Safety Congress

The National Water Safety Congress has an extensive award program to recognize those people who contribute to the safety of everyone who enjoys water recreation. Each year these awards are presented at the International Boating and Water Safety Summit.

Examples of those who may be recognized for promoting water safety are marina operators, office personnel, sports writers, wildlife officers, radio or television station personnel, Coast Guard Auxiliary Units, civic organizations, etc.

National Award

The National Award is presented annually to an individual, organization, firm or agency that has made a significant contribution to water safety issues or programs on a national level.



Shawn Alladio, with K-38 Water Safety, was recognized with the NWSC National Award for her efforts in promoting water safety around the world.

Shawn Alladio, founder and owner of K-38 Water Safety, was chosen as this year's recipient for her efforts in promoting water safety around the world.

K38 provides PWC rescue boat courses for law enforcement, military personnel, lifeguards, fire departments and other types of professional agencies and athletes. Through K38 Water Safety, Alladio has been instrumental in developing curricula for law enforcement training programs.

She also travels to other countries, training and doing rescues in big wave surfing competitions. She has opened branches of K38 in both Italy and Brazil, spreading the word of water safety not only nationally but internationally. She is recognized nationally and internationally as a water safety expert in the arena of PWC and as a motivational speaker.

Capt. Evans Receives Lifetime Achievement Award

Capt. Scott Evans, with the U.S. Coast Guard Office of Boating Safety, received the National Water Safety Congress's second-ever Lifetime Achievement Award.

This award recognizes an individual for a lifetime of achievements in the efforts of water safety.

An avid boater, Capt. Evans has owned various boats since age 12. He has sailed the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, the Gulf of Mexico, the Great Lakes, and the Caribbean. This experience, along with having visited nearly all 50 states, has given him a diverse background that helps him relate to the unique needs of the recreational boating public throughout the United States.



Capt. Scott Evans, with the U.S. Coast Guard Office of Boating Safety, received the NWSC Lifetime Achievement Award during the 2005 International Boating and Water Safety Summit. He was recognized for his longtime efforts in water safety.

A 1979 graduate of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, Capt. Scott Evans served as a Search and Rescue helicopter pilot for over 21 years. His assignments included Savannah, Ga.; Chicago, Ill.; Mobile, Ala.; Corpus Christi, Texas; Los Angeles, Calif.; Pensacola, Fla.; Boston, Mass.; and the American Embassy in Nassau, the Bahamas.

In July 2001 he was appointed chief of the Coast Guard's Office of Boating Safety. For more than three years, Capt. Evans provided the guidance and leadership required to carry out the development, coordination and implementation of a National Recreational Boating Safety (RBS) Program and to lead the Coast Guard's efforts at reducing fatalities, injuries, and property losses in recreational boating in the United States.

In October 2004, the Operations Policy Directorate (G-OP) created the position of deputy director to support the director in the oversight of the eight offices comprising (G-OP). With his background and experience, Capt. Evans was the perfect candidate for this new position and was appointed to it.

Capt. Evans and his family reside in Alexandria, Virginia and currently enjoy sailing on the waters of the Chesapeake Bay.

President's Award

President Bobby Pharr elected to present a special award during the banquet – the President's Award. Pharr presented the award to NWSC Executive Director **Cecilia Duer** in recognition of her dedication, perseverance, drive and determination to bring the Congress to a new level of credibility.

Pharr commented that Cecilia's sincerity and personal passion to making a difference in water and boating safety is apparent in all she does and believes.

"She has helped me in my duties as president more than I or anyone else could expect. She has kept me in line and stepped up without any hesitation when I needed her," said Pharr. "She is a jewel and her passion for water safety is a constant sparkle to all."

Regional Awards

Region 1

Kim and Stew Leonard Jr. founded the Stew Leonard III Water Safety Foundation (Connecticut) – in memory of their 21-month-old son, a drowning victim – to help promote water safety awareness to preschoolers and very young school-aged children. This Foundation provided thousands of swimming lessons and tons of safety equipment to local YMCA's and Swim America. The Leonards are also the creators of Stewie the Duck, a fun character that teaches wearing a life jacket is cool and makes water safety rules for children fun!

Continued on page 4

Thank-you

to the Sponsors of the
**2005 International Boating and Water
 Safety Summit!**



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**Proud Sponsor of the
 NSBC Boating Education Advancement Award**



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A special thank-you to the **InFocus Corporation**
 for providing the projectors at this year's Summit.

InFocus is a recognized projection pioneer and innovator,
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Call for Presentations

The 10th annual International Boating and Water Safety Summit will be held in Palm Harbor, Florida, April 30-May 3, 2006.

If you are interested in offering a presentation at the event, visit <http://www.watersafetycongress.org> or <http://www.safeboatingcouncil.org> to download an application.

The multi-track program created for the Summit will provide information and training to support professional and organizational development priorities of groups and individuals working in all areas of recreational boating and water safety.

The Summit's audience will be comprised of representatives from boating and water safety advocacy groups, including national and international non-government agencies; boating and safety education organizations; college and university aquatic education programs; and boating safety equipment manufacturers and suppliers.

The deadline for submitting an application and your original proposal is **August 30, 2005**. If your presentation is selected in the initial review, you will be contacted to provide additional information and a program abstract.

Award Recipients (continued from page 3)

Region 2

For the past several years, the very active **Iowa Great Lakes Water Safety Council** provided numerous items of great value to law enforcement and rescue personnel. The council purchased a WeatherNET weather station, a lake patrol boat and a laptop computer. The council also produced water safety posters, launched a "Life Jackets for Kids" program, replaced boater info signs, placed carbon monoxide signs at boat ramps, and sponsored boater/water safety training courses. These are just a few of the numerous programs and purchases the council has made to further the cause of boating and water safety.

Region 3

The **Mobile (Alabama) District Water Safety Task Force**, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, exceeded 100,000 water safety contacts in a four-state region and aggressively promoted water safety through a variety of innovative methods, including onsite and offsite water safety promotions, customized marketing initiatives, water safety outreach geared toward minority and non-English-speaking populations, strategic planning, and cooperatives with volunteers and law enforcement agencies.

Region 4

David S. Shumake, with the Oklahoma City Sail and Power Squadron, was recognized for over 34 years of outstanding service on behalf of boating and safety education in Oklahoma and Arkansas (United States Power Squadron District 31).

Region 5

The **U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, 11th District, North** received the regional award in recognition of their dedicated efforts in promoting boating safety and boater education, as well as their boating assists and boating rescues in Northern California, Nevada and Utah.

Region 6

No Regional Award recipient was selected.

Design a Better Life Jacket and Win \$5,000

Current models of life jackets save lives every day. Yet, a 2004 BoatU.S. Foundation study found that many boaters often don't wear them because they considered personal flotation devices to be uncomfortable.

So what would a life jacket look and feel like if there were no government guidelines?

To encourage innovative ideas and new technology to design a life jacket that the majority of boaters might wear, the BoatU.S. Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water and the Personal Flotation Device Manufacturers Association (PFDMA) are sponsoring an "Innovation in Life Jacket Design Competition."

The contest seeks entries that embrace new technologies and out-of-the-box thinking to solve the age-old problem of why certain boaters won't routinely wear life jackets.

Entries are being encouraged from armchair inventors to high school science clubs and collegiate design programs. The winning designer will receive a \$5,000 award.

"We believe that out-of-the-box thinking may lead to the next generation of life-saving devices," said BoatU.S. Foundation President Ruth Wood. "By opening the competition to the widest audience of professionals and amateur tinkerers, we anticipate designs that will be creative and unconventional."

PFDMA Executive Director Bernice McArdle said, "Today's life jackets are well designed but follow a defined and somewhat controlled set of guidelines. Our hope is that this competition will open up the playing field and encourage entries that will ultimately influence greater use of life jackets among boaters."

The competition will be judged on four criteria: wearability, reliability, cost and innovation.

"Wearability" relates to the level of comfort. "Reliability" will take into account the chances for potential failure, while "cost" will look at the affordability of the design. "Innovation" will take into account originality or the employment of new technologies.

There are no rules regarding types of materials to be used or whether the design meets any current U.S. Coast Guard or Underwriters Laboratory standards. However, certain entries may be submitted to the U.S. Coast Guard to review for possible financial assistance toward gaining full USCG approval.

Entries do not have to include a working model or prototype, as detailed drawings will be accepted.

For more information including an entry form and contest rules, visit <http://www.BoatUS.com/Foundation/lifejacketdesign>. Interested contestants may also contact Ruth Wood at 703.823.9550, x3204 or rwood@boat.us or Bernice McArdle at 312.946.6280 or bmcArdle@nmma.org.

Entries will be accepted through December 15, 2005, with the winner announced at the Miami International Boat Show in February 2006.



**Deadline to enter
Life Jacket Design
Competition
December 15, 2005**

Water Safety Organizations Receive Grants

Each year the National Water Safety Congress awards grants to local water safety organizations to use in their water safety programs and efforts.

This year, approximately \$13,000 was split among 15 councils for various water safety projects.

Lake Erie Marine Trades Association:

Promotional materials for the North Coast Harbor Boating, Fishing and Seafood Fest

Sea Scout Ship #726 Lakewood: Safety activity equipment

New Cumberland River Rescue: Trading cards, TV/DVD

North Central Ohio Safe Boating Council:

Scholarships for students to attend Safe Boating Camp

Iowa Great lakes Water Safety Council: PFD billboard

Southeastern Oklahoma Water Safety Council:

Water safety materials for families printed in English and Spanish

Smith Mountain lake Association / Water Safety Council:

Lake signage / Lake Watch Boating Safety Program

Phoenix Sail and Power Squadron: Safety flyers, PFDs and advertising for Boating and Water Safety Festival

Greater Sacramento Safe Kids Coalition:

Water Watcher kits for new pool owners

Lake Pontchartrain Sail and Power Squadron:

Water Safety Festival brochures, safety equipment, advertising

South Shore Cruising Club:

Classroom A/V equipment and library materials

Lorain Sailing and Yacht Club:

Youth summer safety & sailing programs, manuals, PFDs, radios

Lorain Sea Scout Foundation:

Required safety equipment for Sea Scout training vessels

Crystal River Power Squadron:

Classroom camera equipment, cables, printer

Oklahoma Safe Kids Coalition:

Wacky Water Wahoo Children's Safety materials

Coast Guard Asks Parents to Set Example for Kids by Wearing Life Jackets

By John M. Malatak
Chief, Program Operations Division
U.S. Coast Guard Office of Boating Safety

Many parents wouldn't dream of allowing their child to ride in a vehicle without buckling his or her seatbelt and for good reason. This common practice is more than likely driven by firsthand knowledge of the dangers of driving. Most adults are in or around vehicles on a daily basis and have experienced, at one point or another, how fast accidents can occur. Chance are they know that sometimes, even the most cautious driver cannot avoid disaster.

This summer, the Coast Guard is urging parents to apply the same logic to boating safety and life jacket use. Just as a car accident can devastate countless lives in a matter of seconds, a child can lose consciousness after only two minutes under water, with irreversible brain damage occurring within four to six minutes.

These facts are particularly alarming considering a parent may not notice that his or her child has fallen overboard for several minutes. In addition, children who fall overboard don't always surface immediately, making it extremely difficult to locate them in the water, especially when the vessel is in motion.



By wearing life jackets while boating or near water, adults can set a positive example for children.
Photo courtesy U.S. Coast Guard

Parents often cite many reasons for not requiring their children to wear life jackets while boating. Some feel they are capable of diving into the water to rescue a child who has fallen overboard; others feel they—or a stowed life jacket—will always be close enough to help in case of an emergency. Some parents simply think life jackets are unnecessary for a child who can swim, or only require the use of air-filled swimming aids, such as “water wings.”

The reality is, no one can predict a boating accident or determine how much time there will be to react. Nothing can protect a child's life on the water more than a life jacket... not even a parent. It is estimated that 85 percent of boating-related drowning deaths could have been prevented if the victims had been wearing life jackets.

What is one of the best ways to ensure children wear their life jackets? According to a study recently released by the National SAFE KIDS Campaign called, “Follow the Leader,” nine out of 10 children who boat with an ADULT wearing a life jacket also wear one. Eighty-three percent of children consider their mothers safety role models, while 72 percent of children consider their fathers safety role models.

The study, which originated from an online survey of adults and children from December 2004 to January 2005 (results based on responses from a nationally representative sample of 1,221 U.S. parents of children ages 8-14), listed FOUR key factors that influence children to use life jackets, as identified by both parents and children:

- How much importance the parent places on life jacket use when on a boat or near water.
- Whether the parent wears a life jacket when on a boat or near water.
- Whether the parent has talked to his or her child about wearing a life jacket.
- How much the parent worries about his or her child drowning or suffering a near-drowning incident.

In order to reduce the number of child drowning deaths and injuries each year, this invaluable connection must be understood and acted upon. It's the parents' responsibility to keep their children safe



when on the water. Part of that responsibility means always wearing a life jacket.

It's also important to keep in mind that adult life jackets are not meant for children. Each child should have a properly fitting U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket. If a life jacket is too big, the flotation will push it up around a child's face, which could be dangerous. If a jacket is too small, it will not be able to keep the child's body afloat. Today, there are a wide variety of child-sized jackets to choose from, most of which are lighter and less restrictive than traditional life jackets.

The Coast Guard is asking all boat owners and operators to help reduce fatalities, injuries, property damage, and associated healthcare costs related to recreational boating accidents by taking personal responsibility for their own safety and the safety of their passengers.

Essential steps include always wearing a life jacket and requiring passengers to do the same; never boating under the influence; completing a boating safety course; and getting a free vessel safety check annually from local U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary or United States Power Squadrons® Vessel Examiners. The U.S. Coast Guard reminds all boaters, “You're in Command. Boat Responsibly!”

For more information on boating responsibly, go to <http://www.USCGboating.org> or call the U.S. Coast Guard Infoline, 800.368.5647.