

OPERATION BOATSMART

Newsletter

Number 9

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National Event Dates for 2003: How to Tie in a Boating Safety Message to Media Events

As boating safety advocates, we plan many activities around National Safe Boating Week. But throughout the year there may be other events or "official" recognition of an event or issue that we could use as an opening to bring up a boating safety message.

Below is a calendar of various national events for 2003 that we thought could lend themselves to a boating safety message. You could probably come up with several more!

For most of the "official" events, we've included a few suggested safety themes that might tie in well to the upcoming event. The "tie-ins" are meant as suggestions only, but we think it could be fun to try your creative skills with these!

Whatever you do, make sure you post your events on the National Safe Boating Campaign website throughout the year! Have fun with this, and be sure to share it with your colleagues!



Upcoming National
Events for O...

***Don't forget to post your safe
boating event online at NSBC's
campaign website:***

www.safeboatingcampaign.org!

Showcasing Where Aquatic Resources (Wallop-Breaux) Trust Funds Have Gone

With reauthorization hearings for the Aquatic Resources (Wallop-Breaux) Trust Fund just months away, we'd like to encourage all boating safety advocates to publicise their use of any materials or information produced using Wallop-Breaux funds.

Any material that comes directly from Wallop-Breaux grant money should carry the following stipulation: "Produced under a grant from the Aquatic Resources (Wallop/Breaux) Trust Fund, administered by the U. S. Coast Guard."

However, you may also want to consider mentioning the fund if you develop separate material using information that was originally produced through a Trust Fund grant. This newsletter, for instance, uses a LOT of information that originally came from various Trust Fund programs! Acknowledging the usefulness of Trust Fund projects for your own boating safety outreach efforts underscores the importance of these grants to the boating public.

For more information on the history of the Aquatic Resources (Wallop-Breaux) Trust Fund and its impact on boating safety, visit the NASBLA website or go to: <http://www.wallop-breaux.org/>.

Disclaimer

The Operation Boat Smart Newsletter is an unofficial publication of CG Atlantic Area, Boating Safety Section and is not authority for action. The views expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Department of Transportation or the U.S. Coast Guard. Questions and comments can be addressed to CDR Kim Pickens at 757-398-6568 or email at kpickens@lantd5.uscg.mil.

Additional Sites Needed for Life Jacket Loaner Program

By Joni Turken, BoatU.S. Foundation

Now through February 21, 2003, the BoatU.S. Foundation is looking for new outlets to become lending sites for its free Life Jacket Loaner Program. Using readily accessible sites at marinas, launch ramps and other businesses, the program loans out children's life jackets to boaters for the day or weekend.

Presently, over 300 clubs and businesses participate as Life Jacket Loaner Program sites. The loaner lifejackets come in kits of 12 jackets, and include signage and an easy-to-use sign-out sheet to track usage. Three sizes are included for kids up to 90 lbs.

"Our Life Jacket Loaner Program sites have loaned out life jackets over 50,000 times since the program began in 1997," said Ruth Wood, Executive Director of the BoatU.S. Foundation. "That number will only increase in December when a new U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) interim rule takes effect in 15 states currently without child life jacket laws."

The new rule – effective December 23 – will require children in those states under age 13 on boats underway to wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved life jacket that fits. Life jacket laws in the other 35 states remain unchanged. To download an application to become a Life Jacket Loaner Program site, please visit <http://www.BoatUS.com/foundation>.

Office of Boating Safety Grant Deadline

The Office of Boating Safety is accepting grant applications until **January 15, 2003**, from national organizations for a variety of projects.

Among the projects being considered are: a new study on PFD wear rates, a national program for flare disposal, an enhancement of the current Boating Accident Report Database (BARD) system, and developing an easily accessible bibliography.

For more information, go to the Office of Boating Safety's website at: http://www.uscgboating.org/regulations/fed_register.aspx.

Deadlines for 2003 Local Grant Programs

It's that time again! Two OBS partners are in the middle of their respective grant application seasons, so now is the time to get your applications in!

The National Safe Boating Council offers grants to all kinds of organizations that want to promote boating safety in their local communities.

Such programs may include developing and printing posters, purchasing billboard posters and leveraging additional free billboard space for a local flotilla or chapter, educational displays, or promotional items with safe boating messages. Programs expanding on the North American Safe Boating Campaign will be given preference.

NSBC's Local RBS Grant Program must receive completed applications no earlier than October 25, 2002 and no later than **January 25, 2003**. Grants will be awarded in March. For more information and to download an application, go to: <http://www.safeboatingcouncil.org/rbs.htm>.

The National Water Safety Congress is also offering grants to local water safety councils that have specific proposals for outreach efforts.

Funding is restricted to local water safety councils that are currently affiliated with – and are members of – the National Water Safety Congress. Successful applicants will be expected to join the NWSC for a one-time membership fee of \$25. **National groups and government agencies are not eligible for funding.** However, local water safety councils that include such members are welcome to apply.

Applications for NWSC's 2003 grant funding must be postmarked no later than **February 28, 2003**. For more information and to download an application, go to: <http://www.watersafetycongress.org/LWSC/lwsc.htm> and click on the bar reading, "LWSC Grant Application" near the bottom of the screen.

BoatU.S. Foundation Panel at NASBLA Conference Discusses Challenges Facing Women Boaters

From a BoatU.S. Foundation newsletter

At the September National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) Conference in Cleveland, OH, Margaret Podlich of the BoatU.S. Foundation chaired a well-attended panel discussion on women and boating.

Monita Fontaine, Vice President of Government Relations of the National Marine Manufacturers Association, Pam Dillon, Deputy Chief of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Watercraft, and Ruth Wood, Executive Director of the BoatU.S. Foundation, presented some interesting experiences and perspectives on women in boating, and participated in a lively dialogue. The discussion prompted some important conclusions, including:

1. **Women are active boaters** who are passionate and involved in their sport.
2. **Women believe they don't necessarily need different treatment**, or "dumbed-down" education, but they do need industry and others to recognize that women's interests may be slightly different from their historic clientele.
3. **Women participate in 80% of all major purchase decisions.** Women have spending power and help influence whether a family is boating or not. We **all** need to recognize this in our general outreach to boaters!
4. **Women may be more predisposed to being safer boaters.** What can we each do to incorporate this predisposed segment of the boater market into our boating safety outreach?
5. **What can we do about the images of women** participating in boating? What if we try to show more women in charge of a boat?

In order to help assess how each of us can better work with women, the panel suggested convening a meeting within your agency, organization, or company with women colleagues who are boaters. For more information and for women's-only boating links to education, services, and supplies, go to <http://www.boatus.com/women>.

2003 National Conference Schedules for OBS Partners

January

1-5 – U.S. Power Squadrons Annual Meeting, Orlando, FL

March

29-April 3 – Southern States Boating Law Administrators Association Annual Conference, Mobile, AL

April

7-9 – Fifth Annual National Harbor Safety Committee Conference, New York, NY

13 – NSBC General Membership Meeting at IBWSS

13-16 – International Boating and Water Safety Summit, hosted by NSBC and NWSC, Las Vegas, NV

26-30 – National Boating Safety Advisory Council Meeting, New Orleans, LA

May

4-7 – Western States Boating Administrators Association Annual Conference, Portland, OR

17-23 – National Safe Boating Week

21-22 – Futures Forum II, hosted by NASBLA, Washington, DC.

June

8-11 – Northern Association of Boating Administrators Annual Conference, Bar Harbor, ME

14-17 – PFD Manufacturer's Association Annual Meeting, St. Petersburg Beach, Florida

August

24-31 – U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary National Conference, Nashville, TN

September

21 NSBC General Membership Meeting at NASBLA Conference

21-24 – NASBLA Annual Conference, Virginia Beach, VA

Carbon Monoxide Continues to Kill/Injure Boaters on Lake Powell

From Boat News

The death of a Lakewood, CO, man in Utah is the latest tragedy in the state blamed on carbon monoxide poisoning. Manufacturers and the federal government have taken steps toward improving houseboat designs and fixing existing boats, but deaths and illnesses related to carbon monoxide poisoning are still occurring.

Over two weekends this past fall, 15 people were overcome by the poisonous gas on Lake Powell, including the man who died.

Ken Kidder of Lakewood was last seen working on the back of his boat Sept. 28. His body was found three days later. Initial reports from the San Juan County Medical Examiner's Office in Utah indicated a high level of carbon monoxide in his blood.

Fourteen other people were affected the following weekend. All were treated and released after falling ill on two separate houseboats.

Since the start of 2001, there have been four carbon monoxide deaths and 47 nonfatal poisonings on Lake Powell.

The medical community around Lake Powell is considered by many experts to be more sensitive to the possibility of carbon monoxide poisoning when investigating drownings and other incidents that occur on or near boats in the area. Some experts believe the number of drownings nationwide that are actually traceable to carbon monoxide poisoning has been greatly underreported because doctors are unaware of a possible link.

A sense of urgency in the Lake Powell area developed in August 2000 when two Colorado brothers died while houseboating on Lake Powell. At that time, investigators pushed for changes on the boats. Reports were issued, congressional hearings took place and there was lots of media attention, all with the intent of looking at carbon monoxide **(See next column)**

Carbon Monoxide (cont'd)

problems in pleasure boats.

The problem was traced back to the generator, which spits out odorless, colorless carbon monoxide gas near the swim deck, where people often congregate.

The Coast Guard ordered a voluntary recall of houseboats.

"Since it's a voluntary recall, the Coast Guard isn't really checking to see if the manufacturers' claims are true," said Robert Baron, a doctor in Phoenix who has helped lead the research into carbon monoxide poisonings on boats.

Low staffing levels have left the Coast Guard without manpower to verify whether flawed houseboats have been fixed.

"With 4,000 different boats and four inspectors, we have to take the companies' word for it," said Phil Cappell, chief of the Product Assurance Division in the Coast Guard's Office of Boating Safety. Baron said no alterations have been made to about half of the boats that need them. At some lakes, that estimate goes as high as 80 percent, say rangers at Lake Powell in Utah and Arizona and at Lake Mead in Arizona.

For more information on carbon monoxide poisoning, see the articles on houseboats and on "teak surfing" at the Office of Boating Safety's website: <http://www.uscgboating.org/>. An article with a checklist for boaters is available at the Center for Disease Control's website at: <http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/airpollution/carbonmonoxide/spotlight.htm>.

Sunstar Houseboats has an excellent article on their website about avoiding carbon monoxide buildup and what symptoms to look for if poisoning is a possibility. You can access that article by going to:

<http://www.sunstarhouseboats.com/safety.htm>. An excellent article on "teak surfing," also known as "drag surfing," can be found at Soundings Online at: <http://www.soundingsonline.com/archive.story/1545.html>.

More "Signs" from California!

The "Warning – Your Body is not a Flotation Device" sign shown in our October newsletter was actually produced by the California Department of Boating and Waterways. These were produced as a part of their outdoor billboard campaign for California.

You can see more examples of some great signs at their website at: www.boatsmarter.com. For more information on California's signage program, contact Jana Clarke at jclarke@dbw.ca.gov.

NSBC Photo and Art Library in the Works

The National Safe Boating Council (NSBC) is in the process of starting a Boating Art and Photo Library on its website. All materials in the library are free to use by anyone.

The Council hopes to have a good selection of material by mid- to late-November. Once the library is stocked, the Council will produce a button that others can use for their respective websites. The library should be a useful resource for many boating safety educators.

You can see example artwork for the library by going to NSBC's website at: <http://www.safeboatingcouncil.org/>. Just click on the "Boating Art & Photo Library" banner that is located on the right side of the home page.

NSBC asks that you please help make this library great by sending in your own art or photos to be part of the library **Artwork and photos must be sent in jpg format** at a resolution of 72 to the following email address: webmaster@safeboatingcouncil.org. You are asked to please make sure all art or photos have proper lighting and clarity. All submissions will be reviewed before being posted in the library. **If art or photo credit is desired, please specify so in your email.** Thank you!

National Water Safety Congress Publishes Latest Journal

NWSC has published their latest *Water Safety Journal*, which can be accessed below. The latest *Journal* includes information about one water safety council's efforts to reach boaters through an NWSC grant-produced video and CD, and how to submit nominations for next year's NWSC awards, among other items.

Previous *Journals* can be downloaded by going to NWSC's website at: <http://www.watersafetycongress.org/>.



Water Safety Journal --
Oct 02...

Sportsman's Forum's New Press Kit Takes Aim at Hunters and Anglers

The Sportsman's Forum, a coalition made up of members of the BoatU.S. Foundation, the NRA, Ducks Unlimited, The North American Outdoors Group, B.A.S.S, Cabela's and others, has produced a 26-page guide called "Boating Tips for Hunters and Anglers."

The guide offers tons of tips for sportsmen, from choosing a comfortable lifejacket that works with sporting gear, to information on avoiding hypothermia, to trailering tips and more. Topics found in the guide can be reprinted in your local newsletter, magazine, or on your website. Information and images are available royalty free.

The guide can be downloaded directly from the Sportsman's Forum's website at: <http://www.boatus.com/foundation/Sportsman/index.htm>. To get a paper or CD copy of the guide, send an e-mail to boatingsafety@boatus.com.

The Sportsman's Forum is produced under a grant from the Aquatic Resources (Wallop-Breaux) Trust Fund, administered by the U.S. Coast Guard.

New Look for USPS Website

The U.S. Power Squadrons have updated their website to be crisper, faster and more user-friendly. Check out the new format at: <http://www.usps.org/>.

While there, take a look at their safety and conflict resolution program for PWCs. It has a lot of good information and suggestions for anyone who could use more “tools” in dealing with safety issues or conflicts involving PWC operators.

Both the USPS home page and the Coast Guard Auxiliary’s home page (<http://www.cgaux.org/> – it, too, sports a “new look”!) now provide a database of both Auxiliary and Power Squadron Vessel Examiners that boaters can contact directly if they’d like to get a Vessel Safety Check. Check out the “Virtual Vessel Safety Check” page that gives boaters valuable tips on what to expect from the vessel examiner when they get a VSC. You can find both at: <http://safetyseal.net/>.

**Don't forget! Post your
safe boating event
online at NSBC's
campaign website:
www.safeboatingcampaign.org**

**Remember, event posting ISN'T JUST
FOR SAFE BOATING WEEK
ACTIVITIES!**

The media and the public look at this site throughout the year. Posting your events lets them know about events they might not have seen elsewhere.

So keep going and keep posting!

How Hypothermia Affects Most Adults

Ever wonder how quickly hypothermia can affect adult boaters who wind up in the water? The Coast Guard’s Office of Lifesaving and Fire Safety Standards has information on cold weather survival, along with a chart (shown below) that shows how long a person in the water can expect to survive in a given range of temperatures.

Note that hypothermia can occur even at water temperatures above 70 degrees, depending on how well the boater is dressed and other conditions. For more information on survival tips for cold water, go to: <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-m/mse4/pfd.htm>, or go to the Search and Rescue Society of British Columbia’s excellent website at: <http://www.sarbc.org/hypo.html>.

Water Temperature in Degrees F	Exhaustion or Unconsciousness	Expected Time of Survival
Over 80	Indefinite	Indefinite
70 to 80	2 to 12 hrs.	3 hrs. to indefinite
60 to 70	2 to 7 hrs.	2 to 40 hrs.
50 to 60	1 to 2 hrs.	1 to 6 hrs.
40 to 50	30 to 60 min.	1 to 3 hrs.
32.5 to 40	15 to 30 min.	30 to 90 min.

Looking for a Safe Harbor?

The Coast Guard Office of Waterways Management’s Harbor Safety Committee website now has a listing of local harbor safety committees around the country.

Harbor Safety committees frequently lack a voice from the recreational boating community or the recreational boating safety community. Both of these communities could be of help in disseminating new information from the committee to recreational boaters of all stripes, and ensuring that the recreational boating community isn’t forgotten when new measures or regulations are being discussed at the harbor level.

To find out more, visit: <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-m/harborsafety/>.