

Government and Partner Relations Committee

1305 Thursday, January 22, 2015

Call to order by R/C Mary Ann Jensen, SN

Members present:

P/D/C John C. Bennett, SN	St/C Robert E. Canfield, JN	P/D/C Kenneth A. Danley, P
P/R/C William E. Husted, SN	R/C Mary Ann Jensen, SN	D/Lt/C Janet M. Klumpp, AP
Stf/C Gregory E. Korstad, AP	P/N/FI/Lt Dick Jarmon, SN	Mary T. Larson, S
P/R/C Kenneth Link, SN	P/C Edson Lott, P	P/C/C Ernest G. Marshburn, SN
P/D/C Patrick A. Pabout, P	P/R/C Joyce F. Shaw, AP	P/D/C James Spencer, Jr. SN
P/D/C Richard N. Sprurr, SN	P/D/C Peter TenBrink, SN	P/R/C Gene Van Rhee, SN
P/R/C John P. Wilson, AP	D/1 st Lt Ralph J. Ziegler, JN	

Members and guests did self-introduction.

Approval of San Antonio Committee Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the September 14, 2014 Governing Board meeting were approved as presented

Guests:

Capt Thomas Allan, USCG
Capt. F. Thomas Boross, USCG
C/C Joseph Gatfield, JN CPS-ECP & member USPS, Detroit Power Squadron
Nan Ellen Fuller, USCGAux – Liaison to USPS
Dave Fuller, USCGAux
Ev Tucker, Treasurer, National Boating Federation (NBF)
Carolyn Belmore, President, National Boating Federation
R/C Thomas D. Myers, JN USPS Environmental Committee
Matt Kroll, NOAA
John Nyberg, NOAA
P/C Janet Curle, SN Grosse Pointe Power Squadron, D9
Cdr. Ray Morgan, SN Ft. Walton Sail & Power Squadron,
1st/Lt Veronica Morgan, S, Ft Walton Sail & Power Squadron
Elwood Williams, Atlanta Sail & Power Squadron

Guest Speakers

R/C Mary Ann Jensen introduced guest speakers in the following order:

Capt. Thomas Allan, USCG
Ev Tucker, NBF
Carolyn Belmore, NBF
Capt. F. Thomas Boross, USCG

Capt. Thomas Allan, Jacksonville Sector discussed the change in low emission fuel for marine operation. Because many ships are switching to Liquid Nature Gas (LNG) the ports are now having to install handling facilities. It also requires additional security for handling and moving from storage to ships. Handling of LNG is quite different from the traditional diesel and other fuels. Captain Allan also discussed the need for public surveillance in harbors and ports by local commercial fisherman, boaters and recreational boaters. Those people who are familiar with the normal everyday comings & goings, travel and boats that are normally in the area. They will quickly note when something is out of line. Also requested that all USPS members continue to sell boaters on safety, life jackets and any other boating safety items thru classes, Vessel Safety checks and just in conversation at marinas & boat launches.

Ev Tucker, NBF commented on ebulletins and ealerts both of can be sent to you by signing up at N_B_F.org. NBF continues to monitor legislation for issues effecting recreation boating. Currently the big issue continues to be E15 gasoline.

Carolyn Belmore, President NBF discussed the efforts to control invasive aquatic species by legislation which would require trailer boaters to do almost impossible actions and might even eliminate trailer boating as a whole. She also covered the lack of planning or zoning for construction of ocean-based windfarms. Planning is not being done by people knowledgeable of recreational boating traffic and restrictions. Again she mentioned the ethanol issue.

Capt. F. Thomas Boross, USCG thanked USPS and the USCGAux for the historic lowest recreational boating fatalities and accidents for the years 2013 & 2014. Thanks from the USCG for making their job easier. Captain Boross related the fact that funding will be less this year for non-profit grants. Only \$3.5 million has been approved for distribution. Again he thanked USPS for its safe boating education through its classes, vessel safety checks and public relations.

Administration

Stf/C Robert Canfield, JN distributed a number of hard copy MOU lists for both organizations and states. If anyone knows of an MOU not listed, please contact him so he can review MOU and update the lists. List of MOUs are on the GPRCom web site. Also noted that a new MOU with NAMEPA should be signed at Saturday's meeting.

Link for Organization MOUs - see [Organization MOU A to M](#) & [Organization MOU N to Z](#).

Link for list of State MOUs – see http://www.usps.org/national/govprcom/links_to_state_mous.htm.

Stf/C Peter TenBrink updated us on Operation Observer Onboard (OOO). Numbers have increased to 75 members for D3 with 2 members enlisting from D4. Training is continuing as well as missions.

P/C Ed Lott, P of Hawaii Squadron noted that D14 has been active in having USPS members on USCG/USCGAux facilities. **Capt, F. Thomas Boross** noted that USCG fully supports the OOO program

Homeland Security

R/C Bill Husted, SN - noted that there is no funding for America's Waterway Watch (AWW) program. Materials are still available. **Capt, F. Thomas Boross** noted that although no funding is available that the mechanics are in place to receive calls regarding AWW. He also gave the following numbers which all citizens should have in their cell phones.

AWW 1-877-247-2824

Spills 1-800-424-8802

USCG Counter Intelligence Agent 1-202-615-3327

Also note when contacting a law enforcement agency from your boat, use cell phone as opposed to a marine radio, as terrorists may be monitoring the radio.

P/D/C John Bennett, SN noted that Michigan's Secretary of State office sends out an AWW flyer to boaters in their boat renewal registration letter.

Liaison Reports

P/R/C Gene Van Rhee, SN reported that he received 2 report, one that was also sent to P/R/C Husted (of no value) and one from a district liaison officer (unnamed) who reports about what the squadrons in district did for events, VSCs and boating courses. Gene stated that this year he is sending out a letter with the liaison officer guidelines (located on GPRCom web site.) He hopes this then get him some useful reports.

P/R/C Joyce Shaw, AP - National Safe Boating Council

D/1st/Lt Ziegler noted that Joyce's 5 page report is on web site for perusal. The following is an excerpt for the minutes.

NSBC activity report excerpts:

USCG grants received for 2015

- North American Safe Boating Campaign "Wear It!" Grant - \$375,000
- Saved By the Beacon Grant - \$100,000
- Instructor Boat Control Grant - \$170,000
- IBWS Summit Grant - \$100,000

NSBC is indebted to USCG for support of our mission through these grant awards.

North American Safe Boating Campaign

The **Wear It!** Campaign is now embraced by a multitude of organizations in all fifty states and several foreign countries.

The fifth annual “*Ready-Set-Wear-It!*” Day took place 17 May 2014. There were 175 separate events with **6,973** participants, a record number. Japan took the honors for the greatest number of participants at a single event with 1,041 in attendance.

Joyce also announced that the producers of NCIS-New Orleans requested permission to show the “Wear It” decal as it was openly displayed on a boat that was quite prevalent in several scenes in one of their latest episodes. Of course NASBC readily approved and now much of the viewing public has now been exposed to the “Wear It” logo and campaign.

NSBC is currently collecting resources and materials for the 2015 *NASB Campaign*, updating the web site with 2015 information, and working on the Press Kit. National Safe Boating Week will be held 16 – 22 May 2015. Special events planned for that week include:

- 15 May 2015 ~ Congressional Reception and presentation of Confluence Awards
- 17 May 2015 ~ Wear Your Life Jacket to Work Day
- 18 May 2015 ~ The International “*Ready, Set, Wear It!* Life Jacket World Record Day”

(See **Reports** section on Government & Partners Relations web site URL for Joyce’s full report:
<http://www.usps.org/national/govprcom/documents/reports/NSBC%202014.pdf>)

P/V/C Robert David, SN reports for European Boating Association (EBA) and National Boating Federation (NFB) are posted in the **Reports** section on the web. (See EBA report at
<http://www.usps.org/national/govprcom/documents/reports/EBA%20Report%20October%202014.pdf>)

(see NBF report at
<http://www.usps.org/national/govprcom/documents/reports/NBF%20Rpt%20to%20EBA%20Oct%202014.pdf>)

Break 1510-1525

Liaison Reports (continued)

P/N/FI/Lt Dick Jarmon, SN reported on CPS. Noted that in the last 2 years they have rewritten their bylaws and restructured. They had an opportunity to use the new system which allows all members a vote at their annual meeting in Quebec and it worked well. CPS also bought a virtual trainer unit from USPS. They added two languages , French & Spanish to the system. They showed it at the Toronto Boat Show and noted it was a huge success. Dick talked about the fact that CPS & Orion (flare manufacturer) acted jointly in a flare retrieval and disposal program for ten sites in Canada. It was a one day event and got over whelming success. **Capt, F. Thomas Boross** is interested in getting information on how it worked and can we do this in the US.

P/C/C Ernest G. Marshburn, SN reported on National Boating Safety Advisory Council (NBSAC). P/C/C Marshburn related how his doctorate study help understand the outside effects on boating accidents. Accident causes can come from sources outside operator error, weather, traffic and other normally claimed factors.

He discussed how sequester and congressional change will effect funding issues, supported by comments from USCG Capt. Boross.

Issues that BSAC is looking at; paddlecraft & lifejackets wear, blue lights on boats, outdated flare disposal, Operator Uninspected Passenger Vessel (OUPV) for recreational use, technology changes, i.e. broader use of cell phones and apps. As assistant chair for strategic planning, he noted the current 11 items will need to be revised and measured. Those 11 items are:

- Safety education certification & course completion,
- Boating safety outreach (governmental & public),
- Advanced on-the-water skills based boating education,
- Life jacket wear
- Operator compliance & navigation rules
- Boating under the influence
- Manufacture compliance
- Operator compliance (USCG required safety equipment)

- Boating accident reporting
- Research & development - major consolidation potential/ data driven
- Effectiveness of non-profit organization grants

Lobbying, Stf/C Greg Korstad, AP talked about the upcoming seminar Friday describing the lobbying program. The purpose is empower and encourage the members to participate in lobbying, an USPS approved position

State Legislation, Stf/C Greg Korstad, AP has concern over the lack of team leaders and state representatives. **P/C Gale Alls, SN** supplied a report from National Recreational Boating Safety Coalition (NRSBSC) and it is under **Must Know Legislative News** on GPRCom web site (see http://www.usps.org/national/govprcom/documents/leg_news/State%20Legislative%20Activities%202014.pdf)

Administration:

GPRCom Website (P/D/C Mike Rachuk, SN) – Not present

Roster and webpage – D/1st/Lt Ralph J. Ziegler, JN & P/D/C John Bennett, SN

P/D/C Bennett circulated roster and requested all to review and mark up changes.

D/1st/Lt Ralph J. Ziegler noted any electronic or lengthy reports will be available on the web site with excerpts included in the minutes (please supply hard copy of hand written notes used for your presentations.)

Mary Ann Jensen asked if there was any other business.

D/1st/Lt Ralph J. Ziegler requested information on how MARPOL decals will be distributed.

Adjournment 1655