

# SAFETY BULLETIN

## Publication of the Recreational Boating Safety Committee

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## GOALS FOR THE RECREATIONAL BOATING SAFETY COMMITTEE



Mission Statement is SAFETY.

This past year we have gone through a reformation for a Safety Committee, apart from any other committee,

entitled Recreational Boating Safety Committee, to function with spirit, knowledge, and commitment. The committee members are all seasoned veterans, much involved, and are all qualified and highly committed to promoting Safety among our boating members and the general public.

promoting live demonstrations, publishing Safety Bulletins and/or posting notices on our website

- to bring in outside speakers to promote Recreational Boating Safety,

- to co-operate with the US Coast Guard in their "America's Waterway Watch" endeavor under the Homeland Security Act

- to aid in weather reporting with NOAA and the National Weather Service.

Just watch out for our "wake".

R/C Elliott L. Manke, JN  
Recreational Boating Safety Committee

The fifth word in the USPS® Mission statement found every month at the bottom left-hand corner of page three in the *Ensign* is "SAFETY".

"To promote recreational boating Safety through education and civic activities while providing fellowship for our members".

The emphasis in the

Our goals are:

- to be more resolute in



**The USPS® Safety Bulletin is Available On-Line from the RBSC Website: [www.usps.org/national/safety](http://www.usps.org/national/safety)**

## THE USPS® SAFETY BULLETIN RETURNS

This issue marks the return of the Safety Bulletin after several years' absence. This publication is available to all members of USPS from the Recreational Boating Safety Committee web site.

We encourage squadron newsletter editors and Squadron Safety Officers to use this publication as a reference. Newsletter editors are free to use articles in whole or in part. We ask that you give credit to this publication as your source.

We also welcome your contributions to this publication. Please send boating safety articles, photographs, and related items of interest to the editor.

## NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK 21—27 MAY 2005



One of the many promotional graphics that you can download from the National Safe Boating Council website.

*"You can make a difference and save lives"*

*Squadron Safety Officers need to file their reports before 1 October 2005.*

The National Safe Boating Council has set the dates of the National Safe Boating Week as **21—27 May 2005**.

We encourage all squadron Safety Officers to assist in planning a Safe Boating Activity.

You can make a difference and save lives. Your squadron will receive a 2005 NSBC Campaign kit by the end of January

2005. You can also obtain campaign information by using their web site at [www.SafeBoatingCampaign.com](http://www.SafeBoatingCampaign.com). There you will be able to post your boating safety events, receive new information on the campaign, and order a variety of informative boating safety materials.

To receive a kit, request information, or if you have any questions, comments or suggestions, you may

contact the National Safe Boating Council at (703) 361-4294 or via email at

[www.campaign@safefboatingcouncil.org](mailto:www.campaign@safefboatingcouncil.org)

The National Safe Boating Council encourages all of those receiving Safety Kits to submit the campaign evaluation forms that can be downloaded from the website. They will have a drawing for some very nice prizes for those submitting the forms before 1 August 2005.

### WHAT COULD BE MORE IMPORTANT THAN SAVING A LIFE?

Remember that National Safe Boating Week is the kick-off event in what should be a year-long effort by our squadrons to promote boating safety.

The squadron Safety Officer should assist in planning your squadron's safety efforts. Many squadrons plan elaborate safety events that involve a continuing effort. Others plan a more modest event. Either way, good planning will pay great benefits. This is an excellent opportunity to promote your squadron's educational programs and activities.

We encourage squadrons to use the resources and ideas provided by the National Safe Boating Council through the NSBC Campaign Kit and through their web site. Send for the brochures, information, and videos that they provide.

Remember, too, that every Squadron Safety Officer is asked to report on the activities and success of their safety efforts by filing a report with their District Safety Chairman before **1 October**. The Squadron Safety Officer's Report form can be found on the RBSC web site at <http://www.usps.org/national/safety/RBSafetyOfficerReport.pdf>.

We hope that all squadrons can earn Honor Roll Status this year. At the time of this publication, all districts have achieved the Honor Roll for 2004 except one.

All squadrons are to be congratulated for their safety efforts. Some put forth a special effort or came up with a new approach. Read about Phoenix Sail and Power Squadron, D/28 on page 3.

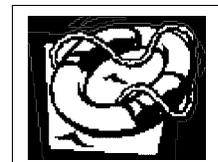
In addition to several other

activities, Olympia Power and Sail Squadron (D/16) created two children's safety booths.

Cape Coral Power Squadron (D/22) has built a working relationship with their local U.S. Coast Guard office. They worked together at the launch ramps and have since attended each other's events.

Long Valley Power Squadron (D/4) created a window display that was in a sporting goods store in Madison, NJ.

Keep up the good work. You are big part of the reason for the drop in Boating fatalities in 2003. You really make an important difference in boating safety.



# PHOENIX SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON CREATES A SAFETY CELEBRATION



Executive Officer Lt/C Connie Johnson, AP, of the Phoenix Sail & Power Squadron had a dream. She dreamed of an effective safety event. She focused on the target area of a local ten-lane boat ramp at Lake Pleasant.

Other organizations helped plan the event held last July. The main focus was boating safety through education. The Parks Department authorized use of the location, furnished waterslides for children and yogurt and hot dogs for the adults. The Game and Fish Department donated life jackets for raffle prizes and

bottled water. The Coast Guard Auxiliary engaged dignitaries, a Rescue Helicopter from San Diego, and personnel to assist. Community organizations donated sunscreen, ice, a local rescue helicopter, remote control boats, wakeboard demonstrations, and a TV news teaser. The Power Squadron furnished prizes, printed materials, and the manpower to hold a minimum of three safety classes at a time every 15 minutes.



There were booths, safety demonstrations, activities for children, and a local fireboat. Hawaiian Tropics girls greeted the guests. Also in attendance were a local sheriff and State Representative. The event went exceptionally well. Everyone worked together to make the dream come true. The website is [www.azsafeboating.org](http://www.azsafeboating.org). The squadron is already planning for a bigger and better event in 2005!

Congratulations to Phoenix Sail and Power Squadron on an excellent event.



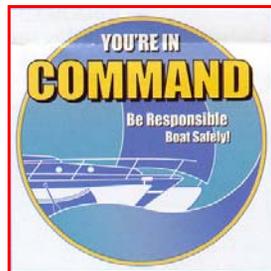
Watching the USCG rescue demonstration



Camera crews from Fox 10 at the 10 lane launch ramp.

## “YOU’RE IN COMMAND” CAMPAIGN GETS NEW LOOK

The Office of Boating Safety has a new logo incorporating a sailboat, a cruise, a small motorized boat, and a canoe. The new word theme is “You’re in Command - Be Responsible - Boat Safely!



The “You’re In Command” campaign continues to focus on the four most important elements of boating safety:

1. Wearing life jackets saves lives.

2. Boater Education saves lives.

3. Safe boats (safely de-

signed, well maintained and properly equipped vessels) save lives.

4. Sober boating saves lives.

These messages are being promoted through a series of new PSAs. The celebrities that are featured include Justin, Bobby, and Terry Labonte, Bill Dance, and Rebecca Giddens. You can find these PSAs at: [www.uscgboating.org/incommand](http://www.uscgboating.org/incommand).



Young boaters complete posters for the USPS Youth Poster Contest.

## United States Power Squadrons

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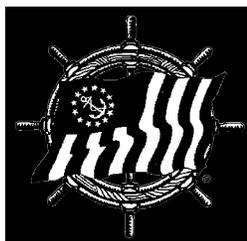
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We are on the  
web:  
[www.usps.org/  
national/safety](http://www.usps.org/national/safety)

*Leaders In Boating Safety*

### **Safety Fact:**

*Capsizings and falls  
overboard account for  
more than half of all  
recreational boating  
fatalities each year.*



## HIGHEST FATALITY RISK IN COLDER MONTHS

"Many boaters probably believe that the risks are greatest during the warmer months, when waterways are more crowded," said Capt. Scott Evans, chief of boating safety for the Coast Guard. "Our statistics show the opposite – that boaters are most at risk of dying during the colder months so boating safety should be a concern year round, not just during peak boating season."

Evans attributes the higher fatality rate to the fact that fewer boaters and patrol officers may be available to rescue boaters in distress during winter months. Hypothermia, the condition when the body loses heat faster than it is produced, is also a big danger. While hypothermia can happen at any time of the year, the colder the water, the more rapidly hypothermia may occur.

## Boating Accident Statistics for 2003

U.S. Coast Guard statistics indicate 86 percent of all boaters who drowned in 2003 were not wearing life jackets. In addition, alcohol involvement was a contributing factor in approximately one-third of all reported recreational boating fatalities.

More than 95 percent of boat owners report having enough life jackets onboard for all their passengers. However 66 percent of them do not wear their lifejackets every time they go out, according to a Coast Guard study conducted in 2001 and 2002 involving more than 25,000 recreational boaters.

"Boaters need to be responsible for the safety of themselves, their passengers and other boaters," stressed Rear Adm. J.W. Underwood, U.S. Coast Guard Director for Operations Policy. "This means not only having life jackets on board but requiring your passengers to wear them all the time. You never know when an accident will happen that will prevent you from reaching for and putting on that lifejacket."

The statistics also show the leading contributing factors in boating accidents are operator inattention, carelessness/reckless operation, operator inexperience, and excessive speed. Eighty percent of those who died were aboard boats whose operators had not received boating safety instruction.

"There are still far too many deaths, injuries and accidents," he continued. "The key is education, which is why the Coast Guard's Office of Boating Safety has joined forces with a number of recreational boating safety partners to launch our 'You're in Command. Be Responsible. Boat Safely!' initiative."

Recreational boating fatalities were down six percent from the previous year (from 750 in 2002 to 703 in 2003), continuing a 12-year downward trend. The 13 million registered boats in 2003 represent two million more registered boats on America's waterways than 12 years ago.

For additional information boaters can call the U.S. Coast Guard Infoline at 1-800-368-5647. Boating Accident Statistics for 1997 - 2003 are available online at [www.uscgboating.org/statistics/accident\\_stats.htm](http://www.uscgboating.org/statistics/accident_stats.htm)

## Flare Gun Alert

A defective opening mechanism in some 12-gauge plastic flare guns manufactured by Olin (now Orion Safety Products) prior to 2000 may not open wide enough to accept a flare cartridge. Guns with a modification to correct the possible problem are marked with U.S. Coast Guard approval code 160 028//12/1.

Boaters with older flare guns should check the operation of the opening mechanism now and at the start of each boating season. If the breech will not open wide enough to accept a cartridge, the gun should be sent back for a replacement. Send defective guns to: ORION SAFETY PRODUCTS, MARINE DIVISION, 3157N. 500W, PERU, IN 46970; 1-800-851-5260.