

SAFETY BULLETIN

Publication of the Recreational Boating Safety Committee

INFLATABLE LIFE JACKETS MAKE A BIG SPLASH IN ORLANDO

At the Orlando, FL National USPS Meeting, on Friday 7 January, 2005, during the EXPO, the RBSC had a 30 ft. booth set-up with three Power Point presentations running showing our USPS/NOAA & NWS partnership information, "Rescue 21," and a feature on the Phoenix Power Squadron on their activities of last year during Safe Boating Week. The weather program was credited to Tim Rulon from NOAA/NWS, the "Rescue 21" was credited to committee member P/D/C Mike Wiedel, AP, and the Phoenix show-and-tell story to Stf/C Don Stark, JN. All three presentations were well received by the passing USPS members.

pool. All the inflatable PFD's popped open and floated the members. A special "thank you" to each of the volunteer members from the RBSC.

**BOAT SMART! BOAT SAFE!
WEAR THEM!....THEY WORK!
R/C Elliott L. Manke, JN, RBSC**



The USPS® Safety Bulletin is Available On-Line from the RBSC Website: www.usps.org/national/safety



The highlight of the EXPO, courtesy of the RBSC, was the "round-the-neck-and-the-waist" inflatable PFD demonstration with nine USPS volunteer members in the

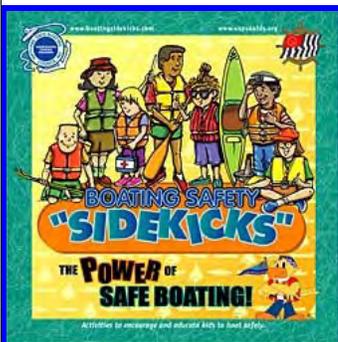
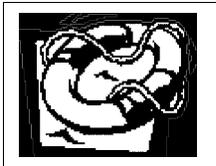


Volunteers were floating with their heads far out of the water within seconds of entering the water.



Every Inflatable Life Jacket worked perfectly.

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



The National Safe Boating Council has made available an activity book to encourage kids to boat safely. Check out the "Boating Safety Sidekicks" on the website at www.safeboatingcouncil.org

THE NATIONAL SAFE BOATING CAMPAIGN IS UNDERWAY

If you have been a little late getting started with National Safe Boating Week, it is not too late. In some cold northern states the boating season has been slow to start this year.

The National Safe Boating Council has done an excellent job providing ideas and resources to make your promotion of Safe boating easier at any time of the year.

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>.

For the past two years we have achieved 100% participation from all squadrons in USPS.

When you file your SSO (Squadron Safety Officer's) report, please also file the online report with the National Safe Boating Council to help them in their efforts to improve the tools

that they provide. Remember we are part of the same safe boating team. Go to the website www.safeboatingcouncil.org.



Current life jackets work and they save lives but only if you wear them. A Boat U.S. study found that many boaters don't wear life jackets because they are uncomfortable.

In order to encourage and solicit innovative ideas and new technology in life jacket design, the Boat U.S. Foundation and the Personal Flotation Device Manufacturers Association have sponsored a design competition to create a life jacket that boaters might actually wear.

The competition started on 31 March 2005 and will end on 15 December 2005. The winner will be announced at the Miami International Boat Show in February of 2006. The winner will receive a \$5,000 cash prize.

Design Criteria: The design is not required to meet U.S. Coast Guard approval requirements to win. The necessary criteria include: Wearability, Reliability, Innovation & Cost. The target retail cost should be between \$25 and \$30.

Innovations in Life Jacket Design COMPETITION

Can You Build a Better One?

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

Send submissions to:

Boat U.S. Foundation
 Life Jacket Design Competition
 880 S. Pickett St.
 Alexandria, VA 22304

For entry forms or more information log-on to BoatUS.com/foundation/lifejacketdesign or contact:

Ruth Wood at rwood@boat.us or phone at 703-823-9550 ext 3204 or contact Bernice McArdle at mcardle@nmma.org or phone at 312-946-6280.

STATISTICS SHOW OUR AREAS OF GREATEST CONCERN

According to the National Safe Boating Council approximately 700 recreational boaters will die this year due to a boating mishap. Overwhelmingly these are caused by operator error, not by malfunction of the boat or equipment nor by environmental factors. The NSBC makes the following observations:

1. The majority of fatalities (about 79%) occur on inland waters, such as rivers, streams, lakes, and ponds.
2. Drowning continues to be the #1 cause of deaths in boating accidents. Approximately 80% of drowning victims were not wearing life jackets. Less than 23% of boaters in all boating groups wear life jackets. More than 60% of boating fatalities result from capsizing, falling overboard, or flooding/swamping.
3. Fatality rates decrease significantly when a boater has some boater education. Eighty-eight percent of fatalities occurred on boats where the operator had not taken a boater education course.
4. Open motorboats have the highest overall number of fatalities (approximately half).
5. Canoes and kayaks have high numbers of fatalities due to drowning. Personal watercraft (PWCs) have a relatively high fatality rate due to trauma.
6. Roughly one-third of recreational fatalities occur while boaters are engaged in fishing activities. A smaller number die while hunting from a boat.



The Chart above shows the statistics for 2003, the most current year available.

Approximately 1/3 of recreational boating fatalities occur while boaters are involved in fishing

OPERATION BOAT SMART CALLED A SUCCESS

Operation Boat Smart has shown the way for collaboration among the key boating safety groups. Under the leadership of U.S. Coast Guard Cdr Kim Pickens, this program has been a model of how to get all safe boating organizations to reinforce each other by targeting efforts and focusing the safety message.

The four year program is now coming to an

end but the principles on which it is based continue to be the focus of our safety efforts. The four precepts are:

1. Wearing life jackets saves lives.
2. Boating Education saves lives.
3. Safe Boats saves lives.
4. Sober Boating saves lives.

Find more information at the *Waypoints* website at www.uscgboating.org/waypoints.



The U.S. Coast Guard Office of Boating Safety has introduced the "Waypoints" newsletter to build upon the contributions made throughout the Operation Boat Smart Campaign.

United States Power Squadrons

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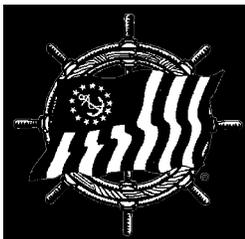
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We are on the
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[www.usps.org/
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USPS®
Recreational Boating Safety
Committee
Leaders In Boating Safety

Safety Fact: Cap-
sizings and falls over-
board account for
more than half of all
recreational boating
fatalities each year.



Furuno GP 90 and GP80 "Position Offset" Safety Issue Is Addressed

Furuno has released a new software revision to resolve the Position Offset Safety Issue for its GP80 and GP90 GPS receivers. If this software is not installed the company advises the user not to use the Position offset feature because of safety concerns.

More information and technical assistance is available from www.Furuno.com and click on "support" then click on "Ask Furuno a Question."

Or call 360-834-9300 or 410-479-4420 to talk to a support technician.

National SAFE KIDS Campaign Promotes PFD Use

In an effort to reduce the number of children dying from drowning The National Safe Kids Campaign is emphasizing the wearing of PFDs by all children up to 14 years of age. They should be worn not only on boats but whenever children are near open bodies of water or participating in water sports.

They suggest that children under 16 should never operate a Personal Water Craft (PWC).



They suggest that parents and caregivers set a good example by wearing PFDs themselves. Children are far more likely to practice safe habits when they witness their parents practicing similar behavior.

The National safe Kids Campaign also suggests the following:

1. Enroll your kids in swimming lessons taught by a certified instructor. But remember that lessons do not make your child "drown proof".
2. No one should swim near a dock or marina with electrical hookups.
3. Make sure that the operator of the boat has taken a boating safety course.
4. Learn CPR.

For more information call the National Safe Kids Campaign at (202) 662-0600
Visit them online at www.safekids.org

USCG Warns of the Dangers of CO Poisoning

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless, and tasteless gas. It is deadly! It is produced when a carbon based fuel is burned. Sources of CO can be your engine, generator, stove, oven, or heater.

The U.S. Coast Guard makes the following suggestions to help you protect yourself and your crew:

1. Know where the exhaust outlets are located on your vessel.
2. Educate all your crew about the dangers of CO poisoning.
3. Be aware of the exhausts of other boats around you.
4. Check for water flow from all exhausts.

5. Listen for any change in the sound of your engine that may indicate a problem.
6. Test your CO detectors on a regular basis.

Also learn the warning signs of CO Poisoning.

For more information contact the U.S. Coast Guard Office of Boating Safety at www.uscgboating.org or 800-368-5647.