

Government and Partner Relations Committee

1310 Thursday, 10 September 2009

Call to order by R/C William E. Husted, SN

Introduction of Committee Members in Attendance

P/V/C Robert P. David, SN	Stf/C Richard Gercak, AP	P/R/C Robert D. Holub, SN
R/C William E. Husted, SN	P/N/Fl/Lt Dick Jarmon, SN	D/Lt/C Mary Ann Jensen, JN
Stf/C Steven L. Johnson, AP	Stf/C Gregory E. Korstad, AP	D/Lt. Howard Manly, AP
D/C Artemas M. Pickard, SN	Stf/C Lawrence Rathbun, JN	Cdr. Donald Sanders, JN
P/R/C Joyce Shaw, AP	PD/C Richard N. Spurr, SN	P/D/C Richard Stablein, SN
P/R/C Gene R. VanRhee, SN		

Guests: Dick Allsopp – US Sailing
Rachel Garren – US Army Corps of Engineers
Keith Christopher – Sea Scouts, BSA
Bob Canfield – USPS District 20

Approval of Anaheim Committee Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the Anaheim meeting were approved as presented.

GPRCommittee Update – R/C William E. Husted

R/C Husted presented an overview of Committee membership and activities:

- GPRCommittee Website: The webpage has been revised. The home page has been updated and Latest News, Must Know Legislative News, current MOUs, Government contact links along with Partner matchups have been added.
- MOUs – P/R/C Dave Daniels, SN has joined the Committee as the MOU coordinator replacing Jim Roeber. He has been actively involved with Education and working on agreements with the States to teach basic boating courses. The New York State MOU will be an agreement extension. There will be no MOU with SailAngle.com at this time. Randy White will present information on SailAngle.com on Saturday AM, and there will be CD in seat packet. Rose Point has been discussed as a replacement or supplement to MapTech; however, there will be no MOU at this time.
- Assigned Tasks – R/C Husted reminded committee members to pay attention to the Assigned Tasks list and complete their assignments.
- Liaison Activities – National Preparedness month is this month (September). P/Stf/C Sellenraad is working with District Commanders to identify Liaisons and Homeland Security officers.
- National Marina Day – Marina recognition has been successful in many areas. Function of this event was to focus attention on marinas with outreach to general public. USPS is requesting squadron activity in this area.

Comments on USPS Direction from Frank Dvorak

- There will be a vote on a large Bylaws change Saturday. This change will remove the Operating Committee references and insert Board of Directors references.
- One membership class will be coming instead of the myriad that exist now.
- The Bylaws change will recognize a merit mark as a merit mark. There will be no distinction between family member and active member merit marks.
- The Century Fund will be used to train Squadron Administrative Officers for leadership.

- The Board of Directors is going to ask D/Cs to do more with Squadron Commanders. USPS needs to help squadron commanders.

Team Activity Reports

Liaison (Email Report for P/Stf/C Fred Sellenraad): Generally speaking, this has been a very quiet summer as far as reported activities go. Most District Executive Officers don't insist on committee chairperson reports. Very few acknowledgements are received from e-mails sent out.

Liaison is perceived to be a contact function primarily and most Liaison officers never get much beyond that despite reminders to read "Liaison Guidelines."

Homeland Security (HS) efforts are also minimal. It's like that play "Waiting for Godot" with everyone waiting for someone else to take action, despite my urging to be pro-active.

Activities as HS/Liaison Coordinator consisted of 13 mailings regarding forwarded (8) HS topics and (5) Liaison issues. Feedback regarding action taken has been minimal although some have actively kept contact with their squadrons. Replies received indicated the information is appreciated. Job description/explanation were sent to newcomers. Since our Affiliate Agreement with Citizen Corps was signed (number 27), we now get a few requests from the other 26 Affiliates. I have tried to promote what USPS does best (boating courses, VSC, Co-op Charting, seminars, etc) and how that can fit in with HS programs. Only districts and squadrons can make the partnership effective at the local level.

Bottom line: More than 2/3 of the districts have a Liaison and HS Officer (23 & 25); 9 districts combine the two functions. A few districts do well communicating with squadrons, but more emphasis and training (Liaison and HS) is needed.

Other than non-activity, non-reporting is the biggest stumbling block.

State Legislative Team Happenings

- Gene Van Rhee reported that he has asked for quarterly reports, but has only seen one.
- With the resignation on P/V/C James Roeber there are no legislative representatives for Wyoming and Idaho.
- There is a new legislative representative for Hawaii, Cdr. Donald Sanders, JN.
- There are problems with establishing a legislative representative for Oregon. The D/C not responding to requests.
- There are about 40 states that are considered boating states. Legislative representatives for two of those states, Oregon and Ohio, are desperately needed.
- There is information on the website where we have reps and where they are needed

Individual Team Breakout Sessions – time for all teams to meet together to determine future direction.

Reconvene 1436

Lobbying Policy Progress: Stf/C Greg Korstad

There was a failed effort to get an ad hoc group to put together a policy and direction to present to the Board of Directors. 2 working documents are under development but are incomplete. One may be almost ready for vetting to the Board of Directors. The problems is getting National to provide direction and also have folks that are willing to be the lobbying representative for the organization. Bridging the gap is the issue.

Development of an official policy is R/C Husted's last goal. The aim is not to train a full time lobbyist, but rather to educate people to be citizen lobbyists. Citizen lobbyists would be exempt from the registration

requirements as most State requirements consider monetary expenses when defining a lobbyist. The need is to set parameters that are broad enough to encourage participation and stringent enough to support USPS policies.

Policy areas that are already approved are on the web. There should be 2-3 bullet points per policy to be used for discussion

Homeland Security/Citizen Corps Direction – D/Lt Howard Manly

D/Lt Manly passed out the booklet “Are You Ready”. He noted that D/Lt Joe Miciak is a member of the Harbor committee for the Port of New York. D/Lt Manly also passed out the Affiliation Agreement with Citizen Corps and a list of all the state councils. He will suggest that each squadron participate with the local councils regarding homeland security as it pertains to water.

P/V/C David asked when and where is there going to be feedback on situations/instances where the initiatives are working. A feedback loop regarding current incident reports is needed. This feedback does not have to include names and exact locations.

Afternoon Review/Committee Remarks

P/V/C David discussed UN Resolution 40. To boat in Europe, an individual must have recent certification in State of Residency. The United States has not enacted this resolution as there is no entity to fulfill the requirements of UN Resolution 40. This is a work in progress that is still going forward, not backward. P/V/C David suggests that USPS buy the European rule courses for use in BOC courses.

POSTPONEMENT 1531

RECONVENE 0847 Friday, 11 September 2009

Call to order by R/C William E. Husted, SN

R/C Husted requested a moment of silence for the victims of 9/11.

Introduction of Committee Members in Attendance

Stf/C Richard Gercak, AP	R/C William E. Husted, SN	P/R/C Robert Brandenstein, SN
P/V/C Robert P. David, SN	D/Lt/C Mary Ann Jensen, JN	D/Lt. Howard Manly, AP
Stf/C Lawrence Rathbun, JN	Cdr. Donald R. Sanders, JN	P/R/C Joyce Shaw, AP
P/C/C Theodore H. Smith, SN	P/D/C Richard N. Spurr, SN	P/D/C Richard Stablein, SN
P/R/C Gene R. VanRhee, SN		

Guests: Mary Larsen, U.S.C.G. Auxiliary, America’s Waterwat Watch
C/C Harry Cole, Canadian Power and Sail Squadrons
V/C Mal Blann, Canadian Power and Sail Squadrons
John Malatak, United States Coast Guard
Rachel Garren, U.S.Army Corps of Engineers
Priscilla B. Clarke, USPS Grants and External Funding and CDC
Robert Canfield, USPS District 20
Justin McChesney, SailAngle.com and D/28
Randy White, Sail Angle.com and D/28
Maureen Healey, Personal Watercraft Industries Association
Jeff Hoedt, United States Coast Guard

USPS Representative Reports

European Boating Association (EBA) – P/V/C Robert David

The EBA was founded to provide a link between recreational boaters in the European Union (EU) states, the European Commission (EC) and European Parliament on a wide range of boating issues. The EBA is recognized as the voice of the national boating federations with official accreditation at the EC, the United Nations Economic Council for Europe, and the International Maritime Organization (IMO). About a dozen Non-country organizations are also recognized by EBA as “Observers” including the National Boating Federation (NBF) which is the only U.S. participant. Several issues have come before the EBA:

1. UN Resolution No. 40 (international Certificate of Competency –ICC): There is still controversy, led by the Germans, over the EBA proposed amendments to allow issuance of ICCs to non-residents. The concern is that a person will obtain an ICC from a country whose standards do not meet the Resolution requirements and thus obligate the other countries to accept it. This is not a trivial question since two countries have already been identified as issuing certificates without any testing.
2. Offshore Wind Farms: The EBA does not oppose wind farms and has developed a position paper regarding the continued expansion of these facilities to use with various governmental authorities. EBA believes recreational routes and general sailing and racing must be accommodated. A few specifics include: a) rotating blades should be 22 meters (72 feet) above mean high water spring tides, b) navigation markings should follow those prescribed by the International Association of Lighthouse Authorities (IALA), c) cabling must be shown on charts, d) no blanket exclusions of small and recreational craft, e) must minimize the effect on electronic communication and navigation systems.
3. COLREGS: The Italian proposal to give a blanket right-of-way to commercial vessels over recreational craft has been closed with no further action to be taken. NBF provided a position paper in opposition to this proposal.
4. AIS class B units: The International Sailing Federation (ISAF) reported support for wider introduction of these units as a valuable safety enhancement for small craft.
5. Other topics discussed by EBA: a) Security Aspects of Non-SOLAS vessels, b) Containers lost by shipping, c) Piracy, and d) a number of environmental issues.

National Boating Federation (NBF) – P/V/C Robert David

The NBF is the largest nationwide alliance of recreational boating organizations, representing over 2 million boaters. It advocates for and supports the education of recreational boaters and the wise use of out tax dollars. Activities during the past year include:

1. New Officers were elected in April 2009.
2. Ethanol in Marine Fuels: NBF joined a Coalition Group led by NMMA opposing increasing ethanol content. Since ethanol was added to gasoline there have been increasing problems in the marine environment including degradation of fiberglass fuel tanks, increased water accumulation, damage to fuel lines, etc. NBF will continue to actively oppose any attempt to increase the ethanol content to 15% or even 20%.
3. Loran: E-loran looked like it would be the new terrestrial based navigation system to back-up GPS; however, budget issues in Washington and the Coast Guard have continued to block continuation.
4. Ocean Policy Task Force: The Council on Environmental Quality, through the Subgroup on Public Engagement to the Ocean Policy Task Force, has invited NBF to their meetings as a representative of recreational boating.
5. Angling & Boating Alliance: NBF continues to participate in this Alliance to reach consensus on the reauthorization of the Sportfish Restoration & Boating Trust Fund.

National Safe Boating Council (NSBC) – P/R/C Joyce Shaw

Please see P/R/C Shaw’s report at the end of these minutes.

United Safe Boating Institute (USBI) – P/C/C Ted Smith

While the United Safe Boating Institute was started as group to do lobbying, it has grown into a different type of organization. It is funded by the USCG. The USBI meets twice a year. Its activities include printing brochures for different organizations such as safety tips for anglers and hunters, houseboat safety and Boating Smart in North America. This last brochure is produced in conjunction with National Marine Manufacturers Association.

BREAK 0921 – 0940

Presentations by Special Guests

“Regulation versus Education ... the Test” – Rachel Garren, National Water Safety Team, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) The structure of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers includes both a military and a civilian side with military leadership at the top.

In the past ten years, there has been a steady rate of boating fatalities. There have been over 1900 boating fatalities. Most (49%) of these were people swimming in non-designated swimming areas. The second highest number of fatalities (19%) was people falling off boats.

The USACE has been conducting life jacket wear rate studies. There were three (3) year tests in Western Pennsylvania. The results were totally different. The wear rate in Pennsylvania was 3.3% and in Mississippi 13.7%. The latest results show a wear rate in Pittsburgh of 2.7% and in Vicksburg, Mississippi 71%. Inflatable jackets are most popular, and the reason there were few complaints in Mississippi regarding the requirements. Ms. Garren stated that vessels under 16 feet are the most likely to be involved in a fatality. She noted that waders are not required to wear life jackets.

Jeff Hoedt noted that less than 10% of adult boaters wear life jackets.

“Preserving Access ... Challenges and Opportunities with the new Administration” – Maureen Healey, Executive Director, Personal Watercraft Industries Association

Ms. Healey provided a Power Point presentation on the current political landscape. She noted that, in the Federal political arena, Congress is at the fore front in the following areas:

- Economic recovery – job creation
- Health care
- Energy
- Education
- Transportation Infrastructure

This is an ambitious blueprint. The question is “is country ready for this grand scale change?”.

The State political landscapes are concerned with budget gaps (shortfalls) and transportation infrastructure.

Recreational priorities must correspond to National Administration priorities. The Administration’s impact on marine issues include:

- Ethanol blends for marine engines
- Balance Between Conservation and Marine Recreation
- Ocean Policy Task Force – the challenge is to not unduly restrict access without a scientific basis.

“USPS Homeland Security/Citizen Corps Initiatives” – D/Lt Howard Manly

USPS is uniquely positioned to be the eyes and ears on the waters for both America’s Waterway Watch and Citizen Corps. Citizen Corps was developed after 9/11 as it was determined critical to involve the community in Homeland Security efforts. There are 2342 Citizen Corps Councils located across the country in cities and counties.

Participation on these councils is critical. Communities are more connected to one another so localizing messages is really key. People must know their area and what is out of place. They must know what government's limits are and understand local preparedness. Information must be provided on how to take effective action.

The purpose of the USPS Waterways Awareness Program is to detect and report suspicious activities in a timely manner; you know what is normal and what is not. We must adopt a heightened sense of sensitivity to surroundings.

D/Lt Manly noted that USPS is committed to implementation of the Citizen Corps Agreement.

Adjourn 1055

National Safe Boating Council (21 Feb – 12 Sept 2009 activities)
Report to USPS GB Meeting ~ Kansas City, MO ~ 12 Sept 2009
P/R/C Joyce F. Shaw, AP ~ USPS Rep to NSBC

National Safe Boating Council Board of Directors Chair Veronica Floyd joins Executive Director Virgil Chambers to bring you greetings from the Council. NSBC is comprised of approximately 350 member organizations. Membership in NSBC is open to non-profit and commercial organizations, state and local marine enforcement and boating safety agencies, and individuals that express interest in recreational boating safety.

MEETINGS

NSBC has held four meetings since the February USPS Annual Meeting in Anaheim, CA. The ***Spring Board of Directors*** and ***General Membership Meetings*** were held in Panama City, FL April at the ***International Boating and Water Safety Summit***. The entire USPS Board of Directors and several other USPS members attended the 2009 IBWSS. The annual ***Congressional Reception*** and presentation of the ***Confluence Awards*** took place on Capitol Hill in May. The ***Summer Board of Directors Meeting*** was held in Washington, DC in July and included an extensive strategic planning seminar to further hone the NSBC Five-Year Strategic Plan.

Upcoming meetings include the ***Fall Board of Directors*** and ***General Membership Meetings*** which will take place during the NASBLA Annual Meeting in Corpus Christi, TX 26 – 27 September 2009, and the 2010 fourteenth annual ***International Boating and Water Safety Summit***. The upcoming IBWSS will be held in Daytona Beach, FL 28 – 31 March 2010 at the Hilton Daytona Beach Oceanfront Resort. For approved minutes from these and any NSBC Meetings, contact NSBC Secretary P/R/C Joyce Shaw, AP at odetojoyce@aol.com.

HISTORY BOOK

The long-anticipated **Modern History of Recreational Boating Safety** is nearing completion. The book is the first of its kind and documents the evolution of boating safety over the last half century. It was compiled using records from all boating safety interests including USPS. Pre-release copies of the book will be available at the

NASBLA Annual Meeting in Corpus Christi, Texas, in September 2009, and orders may be placed for hard- or soft-covered editions at that time.

2009 NORTH AMERICAN SAFE BOATING CAMPAIGN

The success of the *Wear it!* Campaign continues to spread across the US and Canada with more than thirty states now participating in the campaign to encourage life jacket wear with personalized **Wear it!** logos. 2009 target efforts were conducted in California, Tennessee, and Michigan, and NSBC is collecting data to track wear rate increases in those areas. The *NASBC* revised web site layout features a new format where one can play PSAs and videos on the main page. New features for 2009 allow visitors to post individual “Wear It” efforts along with videos and photos directly to web site. An Events Calendar is listed on main page, and links are provided to new campaign accounts on **YouTube, MySpace, Twitter, and Facebook**. A campaign “air dancer” is now available for the cost of shipping. To borrow the *Wear it! Air Dancer* to help advertise an event or attract attention, contact Rachel Burkholder at NSBC Headquarters.

(outreach@safeboatingcouncil.org)

AWARDS / GRANT

As an advocate for boating safety and education, NSBC sponsors awards and contests to encourage and unify organizations which seek the goal of *Safer Boating through Education*. These award opportunities recognize individual and organizational partners in the boating community that create innovative programs designed to improve boating education and raise awareness of recreational boating related issues. In celebration of its mission to provide forums for the advancement and support of safe and enjoyable recreational boating, the Council offers an annual grant, and joins with Patron Level partner organizations to offer two annual contests. All Squadrons are eligible to apply for these NSBC opportunities.

BoatU.S. Boating Safety Youth Program Award: Boat Owners Association of the United States (BoatU.S.), patron level member of NSBC, sponsors the *Boating Safety Youth Program Award*. The program provides a vehicle to recognize individuals and organizations that have developed and successfully implemented innovative youth boating education programs that target safety issues and concerns of national interest. The goal of the *BSYP Award* is to encourage the development of innovative boating safety education programs directed at youth. To qualify, a program must integrate safety practices into the program and be targeted toward students 18 years of age or younger. Selection priority is given to unique or creative programs that promote a primary goal of increasing boat safety and safety awareness. **Alaska Office of Boating Safety** was the 2009 recipient of this prestigious award for its *Kids Don't Float School Program*.

MillerCoors Alcohol Awareness Impact Award: MillerCoors, patron level member of NSBC, sponsors the *Alcohol Awareness Impact Award*. The purpose of the *AAI Award* is to provide an opportunity to recognize one program each year that demonstrates an effective prevention and awareness strategy to address the misuse of alcohol, and promotes activities that educate the community about dangers of consuming alcohol while boating. To qualify a program must provide a preventative strategy to eliminate

consumption of alcohol while boating. The 2009 recipient of the *AAI Award* was the **Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks** for the Department's program "*Boating Under the Influence: It's Your Choice.*"

Both the *BoatU.S. Boating Safety Youth Program Award* and the *MillerCoors Alcohol Awareness Impact Award* are awarded annually. Each carries a cash prize of \$2,500 and a trophy. The award packages also include an expense-paid trip for a representative of the winning program to attend the *International Boating and Water Safety Summit*. Time is allowed in the *Summit* agenda for each award recipient to present a 45-minute workshop about his award-winning program. Applicants agree to send a representative to the *Summit* to receive the award.

Award applications and full contest descriptions may be found online at the NSBC web site (www.safeboatingcouncil.org/awards) and are due no later than December 31 of each calendar year. Applications will be evaluated by a NSBC Awards Committee based on criteria that includes a program description, budget proposal, and availability of the program to be duplicated by others. The NSBC may require an interview with the program administrator before final selection of each award is made.

OMC Foundation "Take 'em Boating" Grant Program: The National Safe Boating Council "*Take Em' Boating*" grant was developed to promote and develop interest in boating for future generations. Funded by OMC Foundation on behalf of former employees of the Outboard Marine Corporation, the grant seeks to continue their legacy and interest in boating safety, environmental awareness, and the marine industry. The *Take Em' Boating Grant* is an excellent program that encourages organizations to develop creative and innovative programs to get kids into boats and on the water. It helps demonstrate to youth the benefits of getting out on the water in boats.

This \$5000 grant is awarded annually to the selected youth program that gets kids aged 6-18 safely into boating while promoting the future of the marine industry through environmental education, safety awareness and boating enjoyment. Applications from organizations, companies and agencies will be accepted each calendar year between October 1 and December 31. The 2009 OMC Grant recipient was **The United States Adaptive Recreation Center (USARC)** for their award-winning and creative program "*Environmental Education and Kayaking in Public Schools for Children with Disabilities,*" a collaborative effort with the public schools.

WEB NEWS

In addition to web links about the NASB Campaign on **YouTube, MySpace, Twitter,** and **Facebook,** Wikipedia now features both NSBC and the Campaign at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Safe_Boating_Council and http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_American_Safe_Boating_Campaign.

Other useful web sites and information include **National Safe Boating Council (Main site):** www.safeboatingcouncil.org; *Sidekicks:* www.boatingsidekicks.com; **North American Safe Boating Campaign (including "I'm a Safe Boater: Are U?", "Be**

Survivor,” & “Float Yourself Floato Contests: campaign@safeboatingcouncil.org.
NSBC phone is (703) 361-4294 or e-mail office@safeboatingcouncil.org.

With a mission to enhance the safety of recreational boating through education and outreach, the **National Safe Boating Council** welcomes the opportunity to assist Squadrons and Districts in developing, encouraging, and recognizing projects that demonstrate our mutual commitment to ***Safer Boating Through Education.***

Respectfully submitted,
P/R/C/ Joyce F. Shaw, AP
USPS Representative to NSBC
NSBC Secretary