



*The Boating Administrators from Alaska, Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho, Utah, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, Hawaii, and Colorado met at the South Point Hotel and Convention Center in Las Vegas, Nevada on June 5 - 8, 2011. The event was hosted by the Nevada Department of Wildlife.*

*The event opened with flag presentation ceremonies and a reception by President, Toby Velasquez at 1800 on Sunday, June 5.*

*The General Session opened with remarks by President Velasquez followed by the NTSB report given by Bill Gossard. Recreational boating figures remain consistent and strong with life jackets being the 'right thing to do'. Recreational boating has fallen off the NTSB radar only to be replaced by motorcycle accidents and fatalities. Taxpayers continue to pay without helmet laws.*

*Four U.S. Coast Guard Districts reported as follows:*

*11<sup>th</sup> District*

- Auxiliary education on Lake Powell*
- Close Quarters boat handling training*
- Trade in of old life jackets for new ones on Lake Havasu*

*13<sup>th</sup> District*

- 48% of fatalities involved non-motorized craft*
- 45% less vessel checks due to duplicating efforts*

- Paddlers in coastal waters an issue.
- King County, WA has mandatory life jacket wear
- Boat measurements to include overall length including swim steps, etc.

#### 14<sup>th</sup> District

- Fatalities are showing a 'saw-tooth' pattern over the last several years.
- Capsizing events and overboard data are rising because the individuals do not stay with the boat.
- Parasail and diving fatalities are on the increase
- The Marshall Islands are in desperate need of safety equipment and VHF radios.

#### 17<sup>th</sup> District

- White life jackets have been approved for whalers
- VHF/DSC radios are needed for the whalers who go 80-90 miles off shore
- AIS sites are to help with sending DSC signals
- Non-pyro distress signals (laser) flashing red or green handheld units are being issued to the Eskimo hunters to help in SAR activities

#### Auxiliary - Robin Freeman

- Promoting classes
- E-commerce with storefront online

#### BSAC - Fred Messman

- The Strategic Plan is signed with 11 objectives. We all have a roll to play.
- Mandatory wear resolution to be marketed.
- Public awareness PSA's are coming regarding life jacket wear.

#### NSBC - Fred Messman

- Wear It Campaign to be publicized like Smokey the Bear.
- Ready - Set - Inflate program coming soon.
- Close Quarter Boat handling courses explained.
- A new video showing the effects of wind and vibration on BUI individuals to be released.

#### NASBLA

- Educator of the year award nominees need to be submitted by the end of June.

#### KAWASAKI MOTORS

- Watercraft loan program through dealers will benefit relationships with dealers.

#### NBF - Marlene Barrington

I covered our involvement in the Small Vessel Security Leadership Summit; EPA hearings on gray water discharge; Industry suit against EPA on E15 ethanol; GPS vulnerability and the need for backup; National

*Drowning Prevention Symposium in Colorado; and the NAVSAC meeting highlights. I finished my segment with the presentation of a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary certificate and NBF coin to President Velasquez.*

*State of the State reports from the 11 states making up WSBA plus delegation reports from Guam, Saipan and American Samoa took up the afternoon. I will list the highlights from these reports:*

*Alaska - Jeff Johnson*

- 'Kid's Don't Float' program very well received and is credited with 19 saves.*
- 'Pledge to Live' campaign being promoted in social marketing; targets women to influence males; utilizes real life stories; 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue park strip in Anchorage displayed 168 crosses with life jackets hanging from them; a mannequin wearing a life jacket shows up in stores around Anchorage; the promise is made by males. [www.pledgetolive.org](http://www.pledgetolive.org)*
- 85% polled recalled the campaign however life jacket wear did not improve; 23% more likely to wear and 10% much more likely to wear*
- Highest fatalities in the nation - 50/50 salt water versus fresh water. 1 of 4 alcohol related; 5 of 6 due to capsize or fall overboard; 9 of 10 in under 26' boats*
- Kenai River boaters must have completed mandatory education.*
- 2002-2006 87 fatalities*
- 1700 classes taught - High School trainers and community service credit*
- Life jacket loaners available in 249 of 372 communities.*
- Stand-up paddle boards are considered a 'vessel'*

*Arizona - Kevin Bergeson*

- 78 fulltime officers & 89 part time officers doing 65,000 hours of RBS. 40,000 on the water hours resulted in 2100 citations and 7,250 warnings.*
- Lake Mead is estimated to raise 30' with all of the runoff coming down from the north this year. (the lake is down 90' from it's high)*
- 50 officers trained in Close Quarter Boating Handling course.*
- Operation Dry Water resulted in 29 arrests, 6300 boats and 6 check points.*
- Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff is offering a 'Paddler's Course'.*
- There are 26 law enforcement agencies involved with policing the Colorado River.*
- Kids Teachable Moments: One of the old patrol boats has been refitted to promote Life Jacket wear and is entered in parades around the state. Children can climb aboard but they must have a life jacket on.*
- 75% of citations are non-residents from California. 58% of accidents are caused by boaters from CA.*

## American Samoa

- The marine patrol division has 16 officers

California - Their report was submitted by fax as their budget was slashed with no travel permitted.

- 570 accidents in 2010 which is down to their 1972 level.
- 15 fatalities so far in 2011. The cool weather this year has reduced boating activity.
- 4067 vessel assists
- CA is offering a vessel 'turn-in' program rather than abandoning your old boat.
- The Friday of the Memorial Day weekend was life jacket trade-in day. The Wear It program is a marina event where they give away life jackets.
- CA has started a HERO program and also social media program.

## Hawaii

- The tsunami event was highlighted and boater rules and regulations during such an event need to be reviewed by the state. Boaters left the small boat harbor to ride out the wave and then were stranded out in the water because the docks and unmanned boats jammed the entrance to the harbor and they could not return.
- Hawaii is very concerned about a new marketing product called Jet Lev. It is a jet-pack that can take an individual into levitation flight over open water. You can view this on Utube as well as their website: [www.jetlev.com](http://www.jetlev.com) This company is marketing their product in 2011 in North & South American, Caribbean, Asia-Pacific, and South Africa.

## Idaho - Dave Dahms

- Life jackets with 2 logo options of the Univ. of Idaho and Boise State colors - also draw string back packs with these school colors.
- They do Cool Hand Luke simulations of overboard in 45 degree weather by retrieving pennies in the bottom of a 5 gallon bucket filled with ice.
- Ready - Set - Inflate exercises
- School curriculums now offer paddle sports classes
- River Navigation classes are offered with rapids training

## Montana - Ron Jendro

- I was not in attendance during this report.

## New Mexico - Toby Velasquez

- Homicide by boat legislation has been proposed.
- Concern is growing for 'stand-up paddle boarders' safety. Require whistles and helmets for all paddle boarders.
- Boater education is offered in English and Spanish with billboards, PSA's and marketing messages in both languages.
- Geospacial test marketing with regard to wind, fire, and emergency warnings on cell phones.

*Saipan/Tinian -*

- *430 students have completed safe boating education*
- *Safe Boating Week was promoted*
- *18 injuries, 105 citations with 466 registered vessels.*

*Oregon -*

- *61,000 boat/shore patrol hours*
- *41,000 boating enforcement reports*
- *12 fatalities (10 not wearing PFDs)*
- *Implemented Aquatic Invasive Species prevention program.*
- *\$10 million in facility access improvements*
- *Registered boats and fuel taxes are declining*
- *Less reliance on printed publications - more website overlays for boaters with mobile device accessibility.*

*Utah -*

- *An audit of state parks has recommended privatization of some of the parks. Reduction in officers and their budget to operate has been reduced by 3 million dollars.*
- *Consolidation of parks under one manager has been recommended.*
- *Boat registrations are down 10,000.*
- *Boating fines are dismissed if they take a Boater Education class.*

*WA -*

- *2010 fatalities: 264 and these were made up of capsizing and fall overboards.*
- *77,000 boater education cards have been issued and they want to ramp-up the program in 2011.*
- *Fishermen are not wearing life jackets.*

*WY -*

- *Park use is down 50% due to flooding from the heavy snow.*
- *Administrators are retiring and a large turnover results.*
- *Title change of ownership required for boats, trailers and snow machines.*
- *Blood alcohol levels going from 0.1 to .08.*

*Office of Boating Safety - Jeff Hoedt*

- *Boating statistic reporting is improving from all of the states and are being received the earliest in 20 years.*
- *The 1958 Safety Act only required data on registered boats and no paddle craft. Power boat statistics are down 2/3rds.*
- *Grant funding is being reduced. Visits have been made to 40 states.*
- *The Trust Funds are not growing because the interest rates are so low. (down \$41 million)*

- Security Zone encroachments are up.
- The E-15 study funds are not appropriated. It will take 2 seasons to gather test data.
- Minnesota safety awareness "Don't wreck your Summer" is very effective.
- States are key players in the Strategic Plan with measureable targets, goals and accomplishments.
- UL has approved inflatable life jackets for 16 year olds.
- It will take 6-8 years to get to the Final Rule on Mandatory Life Jacket wear recommended by BSAC.

U. S. Coast Guard -

- Boat test program for recreational boats meeting safety standards and for MIC/HIN numbers displayed.
- 17,000 factory visits completed.
- If there is a failure they research back 10 years
- A new concern in the Midwest (NE/OK) is the appearance of farm water tanks with 2x12 planks screwed in for seats floating down rivers. This new recreation is called 'Tanking' and is a serious safety item.
- [www.safeafloat.com](http://www.safeafloat.com) is a USCG boat safety site

NASBLA - Jim Graybeal

- Standardize field sobriety tests
- Expanded officer training programs should cut down the high turnover rates.
- BUI certification program by ANSI (American National Standards Institute)
- Educational Standards panel
- Reauthorization 75/25 in favor of Recreational Boaters is still be pushed by NASBLA
- Port Security legislation with national credentialing
- NASBLA Strategic Planning meeting in Santa Fe, NM
- Prospects: BLA Academy, Navigation Rules E-Learning course, Operation Dry Water, Knowledge Retention & Boater Education
- New regional training centers with travel to FL & AZ
- Future: NASBLA Milwaukee, WI Conference

Nevada Dept. of Wildlife - David Pfiffner

- 54,542 registered boats which is down from previous highs
- 8-10 million visitors per year doing fishing, skiing, camping, sightseeing and kayaking
- 22 Game Wardens and 27 patrol vessels
- Operating Under Influence partners with AZ, Park Service, and CA
- 2010: 79 accidents, 48 injuries and 2 deaths

- *Violations: no PFD, no fire extinguisher, and reckless operation of their boat*
- *Quagga's were discovered 3 weeks ago in Lahonton & Rye Patch*
- *Public/Private partnerships with Forever Resorts, SCA articles and Las Vegas baseball*

#### *Aquatic Invasive Species -*

- *Western Regional panel on species and decontamination*
- *Hot water treatment (140 degrees for 10 seconds) with high pressure the best*
- *[www.aquaticneusances.org](http://www.aquaticneusances.org) and klik the WIT button*
- *Seaplane activity should also be watched*
- *Commercial hauler outreach to have them help watch for aquatic species*
- *With the Canadian dollar strong, they are coming south to buy boats. The Border Patrol is watching for infected boats*
- *Technology: emersion, tents, chemicals, dry-ice with emersion the most favored*

#### *U.S.Sailing -*

- *Focusing on Driver Education for boaters*
- *Offshore sea seminar*
- *Cruising powerboat yacht training*
- *Youth and Adult sail training*
- *Sport powerboat training*
- *Maintenance and repair classes*
- *Instructor and coach training*
- *[www.uspowerboat.com](http://www.uspowerboat.com)*
- *[www.ussailing.org](http://www.ussailing.org)*

#### *Ethics and the Law Enforcement Officer -*

- *What profession consistently ranks as most honest and ethical by the public? (nurses)*
- *Who has the most influence on our values and moral development? (our parents)*
- *Research indicates that 'adults' can improve their ethical thinking skills as well as their conduct? (true)*
- *The greatest period of increased ethical consciousness is during what years of a person's life? (20.'s)*
- *Which is the greatest way to change behavior? (role modeling)*
- *A law enforcement agency will investigate complaints against an officer, however, the officer does not forfeit his/her constitutional rights regarding self incrimination. This is commonly referred to as: GARRITY RULE*
- *The Brady Decision (1963) has to do with - (disclosing officer misconduct)*

- *Causes of officer misconduct? (anger, morale, poor background, lack of accountability, poor training, political interference, inconsistent discipline and poor policies/guidelines)*
- *What is typically 'not' a major cause of scandal within a law enforcement agency? (low salaries)*
- *What does the public perceive as the mission of law enforcement? (Justice)*
- *Conclusion: Law enforcement is unique in the fact most decision making is done at the officer level; Officers encounter frequent ethical issues; The public must not lose faith in the Judicial System; It is critical to have public support and compliance; Career survival depends greatly on your integrity; Bottom line is, will your decisions stand the test of public scrutiny?*
- *Perhaps Lincoln said it best, "if you want to test man's character, give him power".*

*Fun Day - Wednesday, June 8*

*42 conference participants boarded a large raft at the base of Hoover Dam for a 4 hour trip down the Colorado River to Willow Beach, AZ and then bussed back to the South Point Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas.*

*Marlene D. Barrington  
NBF delegate to WSBA  
Las Vegas, NV  
June 5-8, 2011*

