



## CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD SPEAKS

Writing this article New Years Day, before football, I'm preparing for our first 2003 board meeting. I'm assured our grant proposals will be submitted on time. Those, you know, are the lifeblood of our Council. Among them, we will assume the leadership for the 2004 Summit from the National Water Safety Congress who has done an outstanding job these past years. We've assembled an excellent team to carry on that great program.

At our winter Board meeting, we will discuss a new alignment of Council committees. Our past committee organization has served us well, but we are striving to improve in some areas. Since our strength relies on increasing member organizations, we will propose to expand the Membership Committee. We want to combine it with the Awards Committee in an effort to provide a direct approach to the various boating communities. We will examine the "benefits" of be-

longing to NSBC, continue to make sure there is value in your Council membership and then package it all for successful marketing as the Membership & Outreach Committee.

We will establish a Grant Committee to oversee our Coast Guard grant proposals and steer our small grant program, making sure both are the best.

A new committee will be Education and Training. It will expand our Instructor Certification program, the Disney training program, and answer the call of NASBLA to help train their Course reviewers. These are things we can, should, and will do.

With all of these, our meeting should prove to be productive. We will keep you up to date. Please attend our Sunday, April 13, meeting at the Summit for our next report.

On behalf of the Directors and the Staff, I wish you all a prosperous, safe and happy New Year.

*Bill Griswold,*  
NSBC Chair

## PREMIUM MEMBERS

Congratulations to the NSBC membership committee. NSBC now has members in every state and all U.S. territories!



### PATRON MEMBERS

AbilityOne Corp. / Rolyan Buoys  
Boat ED  
BoatU.S.  
Coors Brewing Company  
MetLife Auto & Home  
Orion Safety Products  
Wal-Mart Stores  
West Marine Products, Inc.  
Yamaha Motor Corporation  
Zurich Marine Specialty

### SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Within Reach, Inc.

### CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS

ACR Electronics  
Allstate Insurance Company  
Blaicher Marketing International, Inc.  
Bombardier Corporation  
Brunswick Corporation  
Kawasaki Motors Corporation, U.S.A.  
Mercury Marine  
Novartis Consumer Health, Inc.  
Paddlesport Pub., Inc./Paddler Mag.  
Poker Runs of America  
Ranger Boats  
SAFECO  
Sea Ray Boats  
Stearns, Inc.  
Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency  
Zodiac of North America, Inc.  
SHOULD YOUR NAME BE HERE?

## U.S. Coast Guard Message: RESCUE 21

By John Malatak

The Coast Guard has awarded a \$611 million contract to General Dynamics for the production, deployment and support of **RESCUE 21**, a modernization of the National Distress and Response System. **RESCUE 21** will be the nation's primary maritime "911" system.

The objective of this project is to modernize and upgrade the National Distress and Response System. Follow this link for an introduction: <http://www@uscg.mil/hq/g-a/ndsm/NDRS 101.pdf>. The NDRSMP is a cornerstone in shaping the future of our service. The project began in the mid-1990s when it became apparent the current NDRS was becoming technologically obsolete. The modernized system will provide the Coast Guard with a means to coordinate Search and Rescue response operations, and provide command and control (C2) for Coast Guard units (Active, Auxiliary, and Reserve) performing Maritime Safety, Maritime Law Enforcement, National Security, and Marine Environmental Protection missions.

The NDRSMP will provide essential communications between Coast Guard facilities (e.g., Activities, Groups, Sections, Marine Safety Office's (MSO), Stations, cutters, boats, selected vehicles, and detached personnel), the Coast Guard's customers (e.g., recreational and commercial mariners); and partners like other Federal (including other military), state, and local agencies. The new system will support all Coast Guard missions: Maritime Safety, Maritime Law Enforcement, National Security, and Marine Environmental Protection.

### Background

The current NDRS consists of a network of approximately 300 VHF-FM antenna high sites with analog transceivers which are remotely controlled by regional communication centers and selected stations providing coverage out to approximately 20 nautical miles from shore in most areas. The present system does not provide complete coverage. Numerous deficiencies are identified by local operational commanders. (Note: complete coverage for Alaska and Hawaii was not part of the initial design; a decision made in 1975).

The existing system has the capability to guard channel 16 (VHF-FM international distress frequency); however, the distress watch is interrupted during transmissions by the monitoring site. (*In the Western rivers and Alaska, the system has no Channel 16 guard receivers.*) Command and control is often jeopardized because the system does not have adequate channel capacity, allowing only one conversation on a frequency at a time. Essential communications with other Federal, state, and local agencies are often hindered or unavailable due to the lack of compatible communications equipment.

Much of the equipment, installed in the 70's, is no longer available and is difficult to support. Equipment failures have required the replacement or repair of many components. These and other factors have contributed to an overall lack of system *(continue page 5)*

## WELCOME NSBC'S NEW MEMBERS

### MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Alabama Marine Police Division  
American Canoe Assoc., Dixie Div.  
Emergency Medical Resources Corp.  
Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources  
Marine Surveyor, Thomas J. Ferguson  
Nebraska Game & Parks Commission  
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management  
South Carolina Dept. of Natural Res.  
South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks Dept.  
St. Petersburg Sail & Power Squadron  
Tarrant County College Police Academy  
Tradewinds Foundation, Inc  
Wyoming Game & Fish Department  
YMCA of Coffman, OH

### Individual Members

David Esparza  
Roger Ward