

ANCHOR LINE



NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL SAFE BOATING COUNCIL

2004 VOLUME 5 Issue 1

YOU SHOULD BE THERE - THE 2004 SUMMIT

The Summit opens Sunday, April 18 with a great reception featuring one educational venue: the Exhibitors.

Monday, don't miss breakfast with the Exhibitors. Following the colorful Opening Ceremonies, the U.S. Coast Guard's boating safety initiatives will be featured in the general session. Throughout the day a variety of topics and a wealth of information not found (collectively) elsewhere will be available to you. Boat US will share results of their boater survey - "What really is the best way to reach boaters with a safety message?" Then, Dr. Tom Griffith, world-renowned beach management expert will be followed with a workshop focused on personal flotation devices. And, now, it is time to see some of the sights, schedule a fishing trip or just relax and watch the sunset on the beautiful white sand of Florida's Emerald Coast.



You won't want to sleep in Tuesday because breakfast might just be your last opportunity to talk to one of those exhibitors you missed last night. Then it is on to your choice of breakout session where you can pick & choose from 5 educational tracks.

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PFD WEAR : MY OPINION

By Virgil Chambers

(Note: life jacket and PFD are used interchangeably throughout this article)

Sounds simple... a mandatory life jacket wear law should do it - save lives. Or is it a knee jerk reaction to recent studies?* In boating safety circles the mandatory wear issue is being debated. Two recent studies state, "voluntary wearing of life jackets is not working." But wait a minute.... I'm not so sure it's not working. Maybe it is not working as fast as we would like, but I do believe more and more people are wearing PFDs, contrary to the study results. Let's take a closer look at the issue.

The National Safe Boating Council (NSBC), in cooperation with the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA), the United States Coast Guard (USCG) and our sister agency the Canadian Safe Boating Council (CSBC) have for years advocated the wearing of PFDs through the North American Safe Boating Campaign. Campaign slogans have included: "Life Jackets Float... You Don't"; "Boat Smart From the Start, Wear Your Life Jacket" and most recently, "Boat Smart. Boat Safe. Wear It." Grassroots programs across North America have focused on this issue for 20 years or more. Are we failing? I don't believe so in spite of what the studies appear to say.

Through the Aquatic Resource (Wallop/Breaux) Trust Fund, NSBC receives approximately \$300,000 to conduct the nation-wide campaign consisting largely of grassroots efforts by CG Auxiliary Flotillas, local Power Squadrons, state boating agencies and a mixture of commercial marine dealers or retailers. In addition to the free or low cost

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COMING YOUR WAY - CAMPAIGN DETAILS

The 2004 Campaign is underway! By now you should have received your Campaign Kit - all is available on the website shown below if you need this information. Keep your pencils sharpened so you can take note of events happening in or around your



location - find these on the website.

You are invited to attend the May 22 kickoff event in Washington, DC. Watch the website for specifics on this event.

If you haven't already, plan your National Safe Boating Week (May 22 - 28). Do your best to involve others - share with them the latest U.S. Coast Guard's statistics; how to properly select and wear a life jacket (PFD); how alcohol and drugs do not mix well with boating; and that there is a silent killer: carbon monoxide, a colorless and odorless gas (all found on website).

Together we can reduce accidents and boating related deaths. So... Boat Smart. Boat Safe. Wear It! Have a great 2004!

www.sasafeboatingcampaign.com

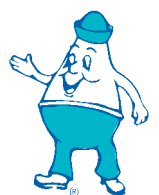
WHAT WE THINK IS RIGHT

"Put your bow into the wind for control" is bad advice. This one-size-fits-all mantra is dangerous not only for some boat types, but for most boat types. The safest general approach to a pier is to aim downwind, instead. Lying dead in the water, most boats do not face the wind. Rather, the wind is abeam, or on the quarter. Recall leeway. Close-quarters control of leeway is critical. For most boat types, downwind approaches control leeway the best.

Our thanks to NSBC member Jim Battye for sharing this message.

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