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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Paddlesport Enthusiast Charlie Walbridge inducted into National Safe Boating Council Boating Safety Hall of Fame

Washington, DC - Charlie Walbridge was inducted into the National Safe Boating Council (NSBC) Boating Safety Hall of Fame at the Whitewater Park Conference on April 19, 2007. Charlie has been active and involved in paddlesport safety for nearly 40 years. He has dedicated his life to improving paddling safety, volunteering tens of thousands of hours to the sport. His contributions in safety and access have kept rivers open and increased the enjoyment of paddlesports. His work, while focused predominantly within the US, is imitated and known worldwide.

Some of Mr. Walbridge's accomplishments include equipment design and development, boating accident analysis, and extensive leadership at the national and regional levels with organizations like the American Canoe Association and American Whitewater. His equipment design and development accomplishments include the improvements on the throw line rescue bag (1974), now a standard piece of safety equipment carried by boaters around the world. He designed the HiFloat Personal Flotation Device (1975), the Swiftwater Rescue Harness (1992) and the Swiftwater Tow Tether (1995). Each of these items is in commercial production and widely duplicated and each were developed to address a specific problem that Charlie analyzed in his study of river boating accidents. His outstanding contributions and enthusiasm for recreational paddling have contributed greatly to the overall field of boating safety. His devotion towards improving the recreational paddling experience made him an excellent inductee for the NSBC Boating Safety Hall of Fame. Charlie lives with his wife Sandy in Bruceton Mills, West Virginia.

The National Safe Boating Council Boating Safety Hall of Fame honors those individuals who have shown exemplary leadership and performed outstanding lasting service on behalf of the boating safety community. Those inducted into this prestigious Hall of Fame have contributed significantly to the advancement of safe boating across the continent. All are known are true champions of boating safety.