

National Recreational Boating Safety Coalition October 18, 2016

The Coalition met at the offices of AAA in Washington, DC. Tom O'Day chaired the meeting.

Attendance

Tom O'Day (NRBSC); Earl Waesche (NBF); Steve Blackistone (NTSB); Bruce Johnson (USCG Auxiliary); David Dickerson (NMMA); Gale Alls (USPS); David Kennedy (BoatUS); Morgan Neuhoff (BoatUS), and Anthony Green (Safe Kids).

National Association of State Boating Law Administrators

Charlie Sledd was unable to attend the meeting due to a last minute commitment. However, he provided the following information to be shared with coalition participants:

NASBLA is extremely proud to have been recognized in two categories by the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE)

Operation Dry Water received the 2017 "GOLD Power of A" Award

NASBLA's BOAT Program received on 10-5-16 the highest award granted by ASAE: "The Power of A Summit Award" at a formal dinner presentation in Washington DC.

Operation Dry Water

27% decrease in recreational boater deaths where alcohol use was the primary contributing factor.

Increased use of seated battery of standardized field sobriety testing.

In addition to the enforcement weekend the year-long campaign tolerance for drunk boaters is dropping – becoming much less socially acceptable

BOAT Program

Curriculum standardization with Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC)

Typing standards with FEMA will assure proper identification of skill, competency and equipment.

16 "BOAT Program Accredited Training Partners" now delivering NASBLA Curricula. (6 agencies are signed up to complete accreditation in 2017)

Over 7,500 officers and first responders trained since May of 2010.

Newest course unveiled – Swift Water Rescue, for the officer working alone. Both self-rescue and use of commonly carried equipment to affect a rescue.

2017 Law Enforcement Committee – “Hot Topics”

After almost 6 years the committee is poised to announce that all 56 member agencies have a “Mandatory Life Jacket Wear Policy” for officers. Pretty tough for an officer to encourage life jacket wear, if he/she doesn’t have one on.

Jet Driven Devices – How will the LE Community address the explosion of water jet propelled devices (Water Fly-Boards – etc.)

PWC Training for law enforcement –

Electronic Search warrants for blood draws on BUI cases.

National Transportation Safety Board

Steve Blackistone briefed the coalition on NTSB's ongoing study of the risks of recreational and commercial vessels operating on shared waterways. Investigators have reviewed relevant literature, examined accident data, and interviewed a variety of stakeholders. They visited major ports to discern first-hand the nature and severity of commercial and recreational vessel interactions and to obtain operators' views regarding the extent of the perceived safety hazards they encounter.

Investigators are now preparing a final report to be submitted to the Board for its consideration. It is hoped that the report will be approved and released in early 2017. It will be provided to Coalition participants as soon as it is available.

SafeKids Worldwide

Anthony Green, SafeKids' Director of Public Policy, noted that his group is a coalition of 400 independent local chapters who are involved in a wide array of issues that affect the safety of children. However, their legislative involvement varies from chapter to chapter since some are restricted from such activity. Most importantly, the national coalition has just entered into national water safety program under the sponsorship of Nationwide Insurance.

National Boating Federation

Earl Waesche distributed NBF's "Position Statement Regarding Restrictions on Recreational Boating Use of Our Nation's Waterways".

Whereas, millions of recreational boaters throughout the United States enjoy reasonably unfettered freedom to navigate, utilize and enjoy our nation's waterways, and certain authorities have taken it upon themselves to attempt to limit or restrict those freedoms, the National Boating Federation advocates that the federal government through legislation and regulations, and that all states within the United States pass legislation and regulations limiting the powers of local municipalities to restrict the safe, free recreational boating usage throughout United States navigable waters and non-navigable waters.

Additionally, the National Boating Federation urges great caution be exercised in balancing interests involved in regulating, limiting, or abrogating the recreational use of our nation's waterways. If and when that balance favors regulating, limiting or abrogating such recreational

boating usages, it should be the stated policy and goal of the regulating authority to return the waterway to recreational usage as soon as is practicably possible. Permanent restrictions on the recreational use of our nation's waterways should be subjected to the utmost scrutiny, and should only be imposed when absolutely necessary for National Security or substantial negative environmental impacts are identified with specificity.

State Legislative Action

Since the Coalition's last meeting, the most important state action was that on July 1, 2016, Virginia's excellent motorboat education requirement for all ages went into full effect.

All other possible state legislative actions on (1) mandatory motorboat education laws and (2) child life jacket use laws did not occur in 2016. A summary of gaps in these laws and activity on other boating safety issues will be circulated separately.