I once again want to challenge every SOBA member to at least send one paragraph to the newsletter letting everyone know what is happening in your state or facility. SOBA Treasurer Kent Skaar is working hard to improve the newsletter, but without your input he will not succeed. Please send a brief description and/or pictures of your projects. We can all learn from others successes and failures.

The SOBA Board met at the Coeur d’Alene Resort on February 16th and 17th, site of the 2007 Annual SOBA Conference. We finalized the conference agenda and worked on SOBA’s strategic plan. The resort is fabulous, so make plans early to attend the conference before the rooms fill up. Jill Murphey and her committee of 20 plus people have done an excellent job of putting this conference together.

I attended NMMA’s American Boating Congress meeting in Washington DC on May 7th and 8th. Past President Larry Killien and I presented an award to Representative James Oberstar from Minnesota at his office on the 9th.

Several of the board members attended the Waterways Symposium May 8-11, 2007 at the Sheraton Hotel in Norfolk, Virginia. This is the conference hotel for the 2008 Annual SOBA Conference. SOBA was one of the sponsors of the Symposium. The full Board met on May 11th and 12th to pick the 2007 SOBA award winners, update the strategic plan and meet with James Adams, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, host of SOBA’s 2008 Conference. Speaking of awards I hope each of you has already started planning for the 2008 SOBA awards, I know everyone has a good project or knows someone who deserves to be recognized for their outstanding service and efforts. There are a lot of excellent projects out there so start thinking about what you want to nominate.

It is an honor and pleasure to serve as your President, and I want to thank each of you, and especially the Board for your support. If I can ever be of assistance to you, don’t hesitate to call or email me. I look forward to working with and for you this year as your President.

Finally, I look forward to seeing you all in Idaho in October at SOBA’s 21st Annual Conference (October 6 – 9). We need attendance from all segments of industry to make this event a success, so please make your plans early to attend.

Terry N. Boyd, PE, PLS
SOBA President
Chief of Engineering Section
ADCNR

2007 Conference Update

“Accommodating Everyone -- Balancing Boating Access”
October 6-9, 2007 - The Coeur d’Alene Resort, Coeur d’Alene, Idaho

Mark your calendar for the States Organization for Boating Access (SOBA’s) 21st Annual Conference, to be held at the award-winning Coeur d’Alene Resort in breathtaking Coeur d’Alene, Idaho. To learn more about the venue, visit www.cdaresort.com. Conference Coordinator: Jill Murphey
jmurphey@idpr.idaho.gov T. 208.514.2432
**Member Updates**

**Minnesota:** Horseshoe Bay, Lake Superior – The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources will be completing the reconstruction of a small public water access to Lake Superior located north of Grand Marias. When complete in late August 2007, the $750,000 project, funded through the U.S. Coast Guard and Minnesota State legislature, will include a timber-rubble filled crib dock/breakwater, a single concrete launch ramp, and a bituminous surfaced parking area containing 20 vehicle trailer parking stalls. The Horseshoe Bay Public Water Access is a component of the Minnesota Lake Superior Safe Harbors System, which provides protected transient harbors along the Lake’s rocky and remote North Shore.

**Federal Update**

April 5, 2007: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Awards Nine State Boating Infrastructure Grants

Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne announced that more than $9.5 million has been awarded to nine states through the competitive Boating Infrastructure Grants (BIG) program. The grants are made available to state agencies and partners to build and maintain facilities for recreational boaters. “The BIG program works with partners to improve recreational boating and fishing opportunities. It strengthens community ties to the water’s edge by enhancing access to recreational, historic, cultural, natural and scenic resources for millions of boat owners,” Kempthorne said. “We understand the importance of having safe and accessible tie-up facilities and many communities are experiencing new businesses and a rejuvenated hometown spirit as a result of this program.”

These grant funds are awarded through a competitive selection process and the annual requests for funds greatly exceed available funding. The Service received 32 proposals from 19 states requesting a total of $22.8 million of federal funding. Approximately $9.4 million was available this fiscal year.

Highlights of the funded proposals include:

**Alaska**– The Alaska Department of Fish and Game, in cooperation with the City of Whittier, the Whittier Boat Owners Association and others will receive $1.5 million and provide a match of more than $2 million to develop overnight moorage facilities for boaters in Prince William Sound at the Whittier Harbor Transient Boat Moorage. Partners plan to construct 15 new visiting moorage floats that will provide docking space for 30 visiting boats, as well as providing boaters with electrical and potable water services.

**California**– The California Department of Boating and Waterways, in cooperation with Fifth Avenue Landing, LLC, will receive $1,277,797 million and match more than $1 million to develop visiting boating facilities at the Fifth Avenue Landing in San Diego. The proposed project will accommodate up to 66 visiting boats and will provide boaters with electricity, water and telecommunication services.

**Florida**– The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, in cooperation with the City of Clearwater, will receive $1,236,097 and match nearly $4 million to construct visiting boating facilities in downtown Clearwater. The proposed project will provide 2,600 linear feet of temporary docking facilities for visiting boaters and 12 fixed slips.

**Iowa**– The Iowa Department of Natural Resources, in cooperation with the City of Dubuque and the Dubuque Racing Association, will receive $3,037,802 and match more than $1 million to develop visiting boating facilities in downtown Dubuque on the Mississippi River. The proposed project will construct 92 slips for visiting boaters. Also, the Department, in cooperation with the City of Guttenberg and other partners, will receive $451,709 and match more than $250,000 to develop a marina providing visiting boating slips on the Mississippi River. The proposed project will develop 10 slips with water and electrical services.

**Michigan**– The Michigan Department of Natural Resources, in cooperation with the City of Trenton, will receive $582,315 and match nearly $200,000 to develop floating docks for visiting boaters at Black Lagoon. The proposed project will construct a floating dock system with 31 slips for visiting boats on the Detroit River, including electrical and water services.

**New Jersey**– The New Jersey Department of Transportation, in cooperation with the City of Belmar and others, will receive $295,815 and match more than $100,000 to develop restroom facilities for visiting boaters. The proposed project will incorporate restroom facilities for recreational boaters to complement an existing Boating Infrastructure Grant program project being completed with funds from a previous year.

**North Carolina**– The North Carolina Department of Environmental and Natural Resources, in cooperation with the town of Morehead City and the Downtown Morehead City Revitalization Association, will receive $310,268 and match nearly $700,000 to develop new slips for visiting boaters. The proposed project will construct 10 new slips to provide safe harbor for visiting boaters as well as providing access to downtown Morehead City. Also, the Department, in cooperation with the City of Washington, will receive $200,000 and match more than $100,000 to develop docks for visiting boaters. The proposed project will construct two finger docks for 12 visiting boats on the Pamlico River.

**Oregon** – The Oregon State Marine Board, in cooperation with the City of Toledo, Lincoln County, Siletz Confederated Tribe, Toledo Development Association, Yaquina Bay Yacht Club, Oregon Economic Community Development and others, will receive $380,000 and match nearly $300,000 to develop new visiting boat tie up facilities on the historic waterfront of Toledo. The proposed facilities include 9 slips and 170 linear feet of docking for visiting boaters on the Oregon coast.

**Virginia**– The Virginia Department of Health, in cooperation with the City of Hampton and the Downtown Hampton Development Partnership, will receive $246,000 and match nearly $400,000 to construct additional visiting boating facilities in the downtown of Hampton, near the mouth of Chesapeake Bay. The proposed project includes one-time maintenance dredging of the Hampton River for boat access, the construction of an additional floating dock to provide mooring for 24 additional visiting boaters and the construction of permanent restroom facilities.

Grants totaling $3,726,178 were also made available to 38 states as part of this year’s distribution under Tier I.

More information can be found at [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov).

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**Notes:**

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**More information can be found at [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov).**
SOBA 2007 Congressional Award

SOBA Presents the 2007 Congressional Award to the Congressman James Oberstar

In a quiet and distinguished ceremony during the American Boating Congress, SOBA President Terry Boyd (Alabama) and SOBA Past President Larry Killien (Minnesota) presented SOBA’s Congressional Award to the Honorable James L. Oberstar.

Congressman Oberstar received this award for his many years of service, dedication and support of boating access. Through his support the State of Minnesota was able to develop a Lake Superior Safe Harbor Program and to fund and develop quality access facilities. The Safe Harbor Program provides boaters and anglers a safe opportunity to access and use Lake Superior, the largest freshwater lake in the world.

Congressman Oberstar is and has been instrumental in working to ensure adequate funding and support of boating access not only in Minnesota, but also throughout the U.S. and its territories.

During the presentation Killien stated, “It was an honor for me to nominate you and to be able to present to you, SOBA’s most prestigious award. On behalf of the boaters and anglers, I Thank You!”

2006 SOBA Conference Wrap Up

Patricia Harrell from Florida has compiled a CD with the proceedings from the 2006 Annual SOBA Conference in Tampa. The CD should be available very soon. Contact your SOBA Board Members for more information.

Items on the CD include:
- 2007 Board members and head shots
- Award Winners
- Program
- Attendee/Exhibitor/Sponsor listing and contact info
- Exhibitor/Sponsor list
- 2007 Conference Information-video, press release, hotel info, etc.
- Speaker Presentations and bios
- 2006 Annual Report
- Approved By-Laws and Constitution
- President’s Power Point presentation
- Member meeting minutes
- Committee reports (from member meetings)
- Pictures from conference
- Host Resolution

Thank you to Patricia for putting this CD together. And thanks for a wonderful conference in Tampa!
**Boat U.S. Awards First Recreational Boating Access Awards Recipients**

**First National Symposium on Water Access Launched**

As waterfront land values skyrocket, high taxes shutter marinas and residential development overtakes the waterfront, recreational boaters have been losing more and more access to the water. But some forward thinking communities and organizations are working to turn back the tide. At the Working Waterways and Waterfronts, a national symposium on Water Access held in Norfolk, VA, seven recipients were recognized with the first ever BoatU.S. Recreational Boating Access Awards.

The Awards were created to honor a group, government body, business, individual or non-profit organization that has succeeded in preserving or improving public waterway access for boaters. Judging criteria included: how well challenges were overcome; the direct impact of the solution; and how adaptable the approach would be in other areas facing similar water access challenges.

“These Access Award winners show us that with creative thinking and concerted action we can gain better access to the water,” said BoatU.S. Founder and Chairman Richard Schwartz in presenting the awards.

The seven BoatU.S. Recreational Boating Access Award winners are:

1. **Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission, VA**, for creation of the Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority in response to legislation passed by the General Assembly. The Commission provides a model institutional framework for local governments to address public water access on a regional basis.
2. **Shoreline Property Owners and Contractors Association, WA**, for their creation of an advocacy organization to preserve and promote recreational boating access by advocating common-sense, science-based permitting and regulation for boating facilities siting, development, construction and maintenance. It is an excellent model for grassroots organizing that joins boater/citizen stakeholders with the affected marine business community in a pro-active, multi-pronged campaign aimed at regulatory and legislative reform. (Continued)
3. **Carryover of the Carolinas, NC**, for the development of a unique technological solution — a boat lift that provides waterway access between biologically separate and environmentally sensitive water bodies while eliminating or minimizing environmental impacts. The technology essentially allows boaters to use man-made canals that formerly could not be accessed from any other waterway.
4. **Scituate Marine Park, MA**, for the successful public acquisition of at-risk waterfront land and the subsequent development and operation of public facilities for boating access as well as for related recreational, cultural and historic uses of benefit to the larger community. This was a textbook case on how to build grassroots momentum for improving boating access, and is a model for local governments faced with imminent loss of waterfront to develop a community supported, user fee-based boating facility.
5. **Port of Bellingham, WA**, for an industrial waterfront revitalization project that places recreational boating access/facilities development at its core. It is a model process on how to get the public engaged with recreational boaters and the boating industry in a planning and development partnership with local government. It is expected to meet current and future demand for recreational boating facilities while preserving the city’s working waterfront.
6. **City of Trenton, MI**, for successfully restoring to environmental health the “Black Lagoon,” and thereby transforming a contaminated industrial site into a much-needed marina that will serve transient boaters on the Detroit River. This provides an excellent and successful model that capitalized on a “brownfields” industrial site for recreational boating access facilities by engaging a wide variety of partners, enlisting broad community support and leveraging multiple funding sources.
7. **North Carolina General Assembly**, for its initiative in creating the state Waterfront Access Study Committee in 2006, the subsequent comprehensive review and the resulting recommendations to protect and promote North Carolina’s working waterfronts. This is an excellent example of a legislative response to a growing challenge faced by one constituent group that other state legislatures could adopt.

For more information, go to [http://www.BoatUS.com/gov/AccessAward](http://www.BoatUS.com/gov/AccessAward)

BoatU.S. – Boat Owners Association of The United States – is the nation’s leading advocate for recreational boaters providing its 670,000 members with a wide array of consumer services including a group-rate marine insurance program that insures nearly a quarter million boats; the largest fleet of more than 500 towing assistance vessels; discounts on fuel, slips, and repairs at over 870 Cooperating Marinas; boat financing; and a subscription to BoatU.S. Magazine, the most widely read boating publication in the U.S.

**CALLING ALL PAST SOBA ALUMNI FOR REUNION AT 2007 CONFERENCE**

We would like to invite retirees and past SOBA members to join us at the 2007 SOBA Conference in Coeur d’Alene, ID. Do you know any SOBA alumni you would like to invite? Please contact SOBA with a name and contact information so we can send an invitation to them. It would be a great chance to catch up and hear from our old friends. Submit your names to **SOBA@nmma.org**.

**INDUSTRY CALENDAR – YOUR INPUT IS NEEDED**

SOBA features an industry calendar on its website. This calendar is now being expanded, and we need your help! Please forward details (dates and locations) of any industry event that you feel may be of interest to our SOBA members and colleagues. The latest calendar will be featured on the SOBA website, and included in all future newsletters.

E-mail your industry listings to **SOBA@nmma.org**.
2007 SOBA BOARD NEWS

Activities of SOBA Board Members during the first half of 2007 include the following:

Stephanie Cunningham:
May 6th - 8th attended the USFWS Region 5 CVA/BIG Annual Meeting in Virginia Beach, VA. The agenda included discussions on the ongoing CVA Program Review, Clean Marina Programs, and a USFWS Federal Aid Workshop that covered reporting requirement and compliance documentation changes.

May 8th - 11th attended the Working Waterways and Waterfronts Symposium in Norfolk, VA designed to explore solutions to the water access challenges that face recreational boaters and commercial maritime interests. In addition to a full agenda of presentations covering a wide focal range, the symposium ended with a facilitated strategic planning session. Presentations and the results of the planning session will be available when completed - http://www.wateraccess2007.com/.

May 23rd attended the Massachusetts Legislative Boating Caucus in Boston, MA. The Boating Caucus is a venue for state Representatives and Senators to present boating related legislation and to hear issues raised by boating constituencies.

Terry Boyd:
SOBA President Terry Boyd attended the Department of Homeland Security’s National Small Vessel Security Summit in Arlington, Virginia on June 19 & 20th. The event was well attended by members of the recreational boating community, the commercial shipping and fishing community and a broad selection of state and federal government officials. The Summit included presentations by the Admiral Thad W. Allen, Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard, W. Ralph Basham, Commissioner of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and Michael Chertoff, Secretary of Homeland Security. In addition, there were several briefings by experts in security threat analysis. Participants were broken up into groups and asked to provide possible ways to detect or prevent two different hypothetical terrorist attacks.

Rear Admiral Brian Salerno the Assistant Commandant for Policy and Planning attended the entire event and made concluding remarks. Admiral Allen emphasized in his remarks the need to work with stakeholders in a way that will transcend the new threat environment. He is seeking ways to “buy down the risk” realizing that it will be difficult to find a perfect solution, but noting that we must reconcile the freedoms we enjoy with the security we require. Admiral Allen opined that at this time we do not know what an adequate maritime secure environment looks like and that o date the efforts have been port-centric. Commissioner Basham provided an update on recent initiatives and strongly supported expanding the advance notice of arrival requirement so that recreational vessels entering the country would not need to report when they arrive into U.S. waters.

RADML Salerno in his concluding remarks specifically requested participant’s views on education or credentialing of boaters, whether the USCG should expand AIS use or come up with some other means of electronic tracking, and how to address border tightening (should foreign vessels be treated differently). RADML Salerno also mentioned that he will likely take NMMA up on its offer to publicize the American Waterways Watch program through its boat shows. You can view a video on the program on YouTube at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YCCKQjEqiJw

To view NMMA’s presentation at the Small Vessel Security Summit go to:
http://www.nmma.org/lib/docs/nmma/gr/policy/NMMA_Presentation_at_Vessel_Security_Summit_6-12-07.ppt

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<th>SOBA 2007 Board of Directors Schedule</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>July 25</strong>: Standard Board Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>September 17</strong>: Conference Planning Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>November 30 – December 1</strong>: Conference 2008 Planning Meeting - Location to be determined</td>
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2007 Conference Meetings at Coeur d’Alene: |
| **October 5**: Conference Preparation Meeting |
| **October 6**: 8:00am – 12 noon |
| **October 8**: 11:00am – 12 noon – SOBA Business Meeting |
Dear SOBA Colleague:

**ACTION REQUESTED**

The SOBA Board is contemplating producing its newsletter in an electronic format. Because some firewalls do not allow e-newsletters, please take this into consideration when completing the form below.

Please send future SOBA newsletters by:
- □ Snail mail.
- □ Email my copy to ________________________________.
- □ Listserv with an online link at www.sobaus.org.

Name/Job Title: __________________________________________________________

Organization: _________________________________________________________

Mailing address: _______________________________________________________  
_____________________________________________________________________

Telephone: __________ Fax: __________ Email: _____________________________

Comments: ____________________________________________________________
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PLEASE FAX THIS FORM TO
JANICE ILG AT (312) 946-0388 OR
SEND AN EMAIL TO SOBA@NMMA.ORG