

United States Coast Guard Auxiliary



June 2006

National Safe Boating Campaign

NEWS

***Boat Smart.
Boat Safe.
Wear It!***

NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK: Epilogue

By Harriet Howard, DVC-AS

Summer is the time for travel. Let's take a quick trip cross-country to revisit National Safe Boating Week and some of this year's special events

Starting in New England, birthplace of NSBW, we stop in Boston. It was here that 36 Auxiliarists, in their dress uniforms, joined conductor Keith Lockhart for the annual "Coast Guard Auxiliary Night at the Pops."

Traveling on to New York City, we head for Yankee Stadium, where a Coast Guard Auxiliary Color Guard was accompanied by 90 Auxiliarists at the Yankees vs the Royals game.

Next stop, Philadelphia, for a tugboat parade and a blessing of the fleet.

We're down south in the Sunshine State, at the World Wide Sportsman's Complex. We'll revisit the NSBW kick-off event put on by the Auxiliary, the Coast Guard and the U.S. Power Squadron at Islamorada, Florida.

On to Texas! Here in San Antonio, youngsters modeled PFDs at a "Safety On the Water" event. Coastie® was there to talk water safety to the kids.

Westward Ho! We're in California! Up north in Sacramento and down south in Riverside, Sam's Clubs held life jacket exchanges. The Auxiliary worked with the California Department of Boating and Waterways, who provided the PFDs.

We're in the Pacific Northwest now. Albertson's Food Stores promoted safe boating by placing NSBW flyers in their shopping bags in Idaho, Oregon and Washington.

We've crossed the Pacific Ocean and landed in Hawaii. In Honolulu, the official NSBW kick-off was held at Kuhio Elementary School, where Coastie®, the half boat and a PFD try-on were special activities.

We'll complete our tour in Alaska at the Seward Boat Harbor where a celebration of boating and fishing kicked off the boating season.

Across the nation, May 20-26, every district set up boating safety booths, conducted Vessel Safety Checks and were presented with NSBW Proclamations by their dignitaries. Coastie®, PFD Panda and other mascots, were on hand for the kids.

This was only a mini-tour. A district by district NSBW article with photos will be featured in an upcoming *Navigator* issue.