

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY



Promoting Boating Safety, Security and Stewardship since 1939



Mar. 2010

National Safe Boating Campaign

# NEWS

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

## PADDLERS ARE BOATERS, TOO

**By Harriet Howard**  
**Special Assistant for NSBW**

We'll be handing out boating safety literature to the visitors at our Public Affairs Exhibits during NSBW. There will be pamphlets and brochures for the power boater, the sail boater and the personal watercraft operator. Paddlers also "need to know before they go."

The number of boating fatalities involving paddlecraft has greatly increased in recent years. Kayaking and canoeing are among the most popular on-the-water sports today. We need to have an ample supply of safe paddlesport information to reach these boaters. Order materials on paddlecraft from the Auxiliary National Supply Center (via your Materials Officer), from the National Safe Boating Council's campaign website: [www.safeboatingcampaign.com](http://www.safeboatingcampaign.com), and from your state's boating agency and the American Canoe Association: [www.americancanoe.org](http://www.americancanoe.org).



Urge the paddlecrafters (and all boaters) to wear a properly fitted life jacket when aboard. Encourage them to check their safety equipment. Emphasize the need to take a boating safety course. Good news for the paddler: The Auxiliary has produced an official course, "Paddlesports America", for kayakers and canoeists, to be available soon and a new vessel safety check form for inspecting non-motorized vessels is being developed.

A reminder: Send me your photos and brief articles about your 2010 NSBW events at [harriethoward@speakeasy.net](mailto:harriethoward@speakeasy.net) by June 10th for consideration for inclusion in the NSBW issue of the Navigator.