



***Boating Safety Committee Meeting Summary
July 9, 2014, 2:55 pm
NCWRC, 5th Floor Commission Room***

Meeting Attendees

• **Committee Members:**

Joe Barker, Boating Safety Committee Chair
Mark Craig

Garry Spence
Joe Budd

• **Commissioners:**

David Hoyle, Jr.
Ray Clifton
Tommy Fonville
John Litton Clark
Tim Spear

Dell Murphy
Neal Hanks
John Coley
Wes Seegars
Jim Cogdell

• **Staff:**

Chris Huebner
David Cobb
Mallory Martin
Kate Pipkin
Geoff Cantrell

Tommy Clark
Betsy Haywood
Bob Curry
Isaac Harrold

• **Visitors:**

Henri McClees – McClees Consulting
Dick Hamilton – N.C. Wildlife Federation

Boating Safety Committee Chair Joe Barker called the meeting of the Boating Safety Committee to order at 2:55 pm.

Don't Drink and Drive Operation Update

Colonel Jon Evans, Enforcement Division Chief, updated the committee about the *Don't Drink and Drive Operation*, which focuses on summer holiday weekends. The operation is conducted jointly with the N.C. Highway Patrol, N.C. Alcohol Law Enforcement, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, U.S. Coast Guard, and Sheriff's Departments to conduct forensic tests for alcohol. The Wildlife Enforcement Division stops boaters for reasonable suspicion of impaired operation. Social media is used to advertise the operation and a press conference was held on May 19 at Falls Lake. Over the Memorial Day weekend and Independence Day 3844 boats were checked with 935 citations issued. Of those stops 54 boaters were cited for OWI (operating while impaired). Written warnings were issued to 1662 boaters. Violations include careless operation, improper use of personal flotation devices, and expired registrations. Evans stated that fine monies go to the Court system and to local school systems.

Operation Dry Water Update

Colonel Evans reported that Operation Dry Water is a national operation conducted the weekend before July 4. Seventeen agencies participated June 27 – 29, 2014. Of the 1190 boats checked, 316 written warnings were issued. One hundred twenty-nine citations were written with 14 of those for OWI.

New Campaign

Colonel Evans stated that agencies working together and partnering achieves better results. The WRC is working with the N.C. Marine Patrol to reduce the number of times boaters are stopped. The WRC provides motorboat training and certification in sobriety testing. The N.C. Marine Patrol provides salt water fish training and man overboard training. The agencies are issuing colored tags for boaters to use, to show that their vessels already have been checked.

Boating Accidents and Fatalities

Colonel Evans reported that as of July 9 there have been 19 fatalities from 16 accidents. Alcohol was involved in 22 percent of accidents. Most of the 2014 fatalities have involved no personal flotation device being worn. Evans referred to a recent death from riding on the bow of a boat while it was underway and falling off, resulting in being run over. Federal law defines riding on the bow of a boat as careless and reckless.

Vessel Stop Reporting

Colonel Evans reported that the Enforcement Division now documents every boat that is stopped by reporting on line at the end of each work day. He said the new program has been well received by the Division.

Adjourn

Chairman Joe Barker thanked Colonel Evans for his updates and adjourned the meeting at 3:25 pm.