



® FOUO/Internal Audience

USACE Water Safety Report – August 2015

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

BUILDING STRONG

HQUSACE National Operations Center (NOC) for Water Safety conducted a National Bilingual Subcommittee Meeting and Workshop in Wilmington District 11-13 August 2015. The subcommittee meets annually to finalize Spanish translations that are used to promote water safety. A Communicating with the Hispanic Visitor Workshop was provided to USACE staff and partners from Falls, Jordan and John H. Kerr Lakes. The participants in the workshop learned about the National subcommittee and received tips and resources on how to communicate effectively with our Hispanic visitors, especially when it comes to promoting water safety.



Members of the National Bilingual Subcommittee from left to right: Juanita Souther, Eric Haskell, Javier Pérez Ortiz, Julie Franco and Robert Moreno



The U.S. Power Squadrons has developed a Boating Skills Virtual Trainer that is available to be loaned out through local squadrons. It allows someone to maneuver a “Boston Whaler” on a lake in a virtual mode. This is an interactive based boating safety program that includes three screen monitors, boating console that includes a throttle with trim buttons, navigation lights and horn, and the ability to change wind, current and night and day scenes. To borrow one of these virtual trainers contact your local squadron www.usps.org/index.php/locate-a-squadron or contact U.S. Power Squadrons Headquarters at 888-367-877, email contactme@HQ.USPS.org.

Great Lakes and Ohio River Division (LRD) Initiative

Nashville District (LRN) Initiative

Cumberland Lake Initiative

Finding volunteers that can effectively educate our visitors about water safety can be a difficult task. Joe and Debbie Homich have fulfilled this task for the past four years while volunteering at Kendall Campground on Lake Cumberland. In addition to their water safety efforts, they carry out other duties such as beautification of the campground and day use area, monitor the boat launching ramp and assist visitors. The Homich's have helped build the water safety program in Kendall Campground by implementing fun-filled family activities. Annual coloring contests, scavenger hunts and sidewalk chalk events are held during each of the major summer holidays; all of which are focused on promoting water safety. They also present water safety interpretive programs on Saturday evenings throughout the summer.



Mississippi Valley Division (MVD) Initiatives

St. Louis District (MVS) Initiatives and Lifeline Story

Carlyle Lake Initiatives

- Local Carlyle, IL businesses partnered with the USACE the week leading up to Labor Day Weekend to get water safety information out to lake visitors and the general public. Banners, table cards and posters with water safety messages were displayed at local businesses in Carlyle, Breese, and Keyesport, IL. The City of Carlyle and local businesses displayed water safety messages and graphics on scrolling signs and reader boards. Local restaurants placed water safety message labels on all carry-out boxes and bags.
- Water safety messages were posted on the Carlyle Lake Facebook Page.
- Continued to partner with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Conservation Police to complete vessel safety checks at boat ramps.



- The "I got caught wearing my lifejacket" campaign has recognized 194 visitors for wearing their life jacket while participating in water related activities.
- Local radio stations broadcasted recorded water safety messages. The water safety messages will be aired throughout the recreation season.

- RaceMaker Productions, in cooperation with the USACE hosted a Trifecta Sprint and Olympic Distance Triathlon at the Keyesport Recreation Area. During the event athletes participated in a timed swim, run and bike course. Face-to-face direct interpretive water safety contacts were made during the event.



- The 18th Annual Car Show and Crusin' the Dam Events were held at the Mariner's Village Resort. Classic cars from across central and southern Illinois were showcased during these events. Direct interpretive contacts were made regarding water safety and Carlyle Lake during the events.

Mark Twain Lake Initiatives

- Presented water safety interpretive programs both on-site and off-site and conducted roving water safety interpretation within recreation areas.
- Conducted water safety related interviews at two local television stations.
- A temporary water safety exhibit is on display at the M.W. Boudreaux Memorial Visitor Center that provides additional water safety information that enhances and draws attention to the already existing information.
- Water safety billboards are in place along major highways leading into the lake area.

Rivers Project Initiatives and Lifeline Story

At Lock and Dam 25, Winfield, MO on 20 August 2015 an 18' sailboat was headed down stream above the lock and dam when the boat motor stalled. The two adults were on board and tried to get the sails up, but were unsuccessful. The boat drifted into one of the tainter gates. USACE personnel shut down lock operations, contacted 911 and the U.S. Coast Guard and then proceeded to the dam to assist the passengers on the boat. The tainter gate could not be lowered because the sailboat was wedged up against it. Winfield, MO Search and Rescue Squad assisted the passengers and their dog off the boat. After all the passengers were rescued and safe the vessel was secured and the tainter gate was able to be lowered. There was no damage to government property or injury to personnel.

- Park rangers attended the Illinois Federation of Outdoor Resources and conducted a kayaking and water safety demonstration for attendees.
- Partnered with the Alton Convention and Visitors Bureau during their "Kidcation" weeklong event. "Kidcation" offered parents reduced or free outdoor activities in the Riverbend area. Participants were able to build pirate boats, hunt for treasures and visit with Pirate Reinactors while touring the Melvin Price Locks and Dam.

- Park rangers utilized a water safety prize wheel to ask visitors onboard the Motor Vessel Mississippi important water safety questions during the Cape Girardeau, MO open house.
- Partnered with the Mississippi River Water Trail Association to host the Firecracker Race Event on 22 August 2015. There were three categories for participants to enter including stand-up paddle board (SUP), kayak and canoe. Partners included SUP St. Louis, Recreation Products of the Carolina's and Ladsurfski and Kayak Trader. Direct interpretive contacts were made with all the event participants.
- Water safety and navigation information was presented during lock and dam tours.
- The Mississippi River Water Trail Association hosted their monthly meeting at the Jones Visitor Center in Forest Park, MO. The Association and USACE are working together to finalize their 2016 schedule of events.

Lake Shelbyville Initiatives

- Park rangers while conducting boat and beach patrol distributed "I Got Caught Wearing My Life Jacket" t-shirts to visitors that were wearing life jackets. USACE partnered with the Lake Volunteers Association, Shelby County Tourism Office and local businesses to provide the t-shirts.
- The Annual Aquafest Water Safety Carnival was conducted on 1 August 2015. Water safety games, inflatable outdoor games and Bobber the Water Safety Dog were part of the activities that park rangers utilized to spread importance of water safety to visitors in a fun and interactive way.
- Provided water safety messages out to the public on the Lake Shelbyville Facebook page, electronic highway sign, bulletin boards and telephone information line.



Vicksburg District (MVK) Initiatives

MVK recently hosted its Annual Engineer's Day Awards ceremony at District Headquarters. Amy Shultz at the Lake Ouachita Field Office received the Park Ranger of the Year Award for the work she has done promoting water safety.



The USACE staff at Lake Ouachita, DeGray Lake and Lake Greeson worked together to promote water safety at the Forest L. Wood (FLW) Cup Fishing Tournament on 20-23 August 2015 in Hot Springs, AR. Park rangers made direct interpretive contacts with participants promoting water safety and providing information regarding what the lakes have to offer.

Grenada Lake Initiative

Thunder on Water Safe Boating Festival was conducted. During the event the lake's water safety team showed visitors how to properly use and toss a rescue throw bag and rope and then the visitors were given the chance to demonstrate what they had learned. Water safety promotional products were given out to all of those that participated in the rescue bag activity.



North Atlantic Division (NAD) Initiatives

Baltimore District (NAB) Initiatives

Tioga-Hammond & Cowanesque Lakes Initiatives

- The USACE along with Bobber the Water Safety Dog promoted water safety during the First Responder Festival at Cowanesque Lake on 8 August 2015.
- Evening glow swim events were held at Tioga-Hammond and Cowanesque Lakes. The importance of life jacket wear was promoted and life jackets had to be worn during the events.

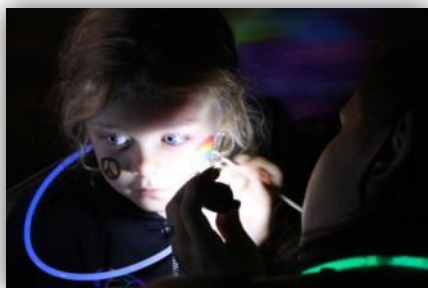


Raystown Lake Initiatives

- Chalk the Walk Event was held on 1 August 2015. This event is a sidewalk chalk-art competition to promote water safety to all ages. Registered visitors were provided all materials and supplies and tasked with creating a water safety piece of sidewalk chalk-art. Prizes were awarded to entries that best promoted water safety awareness. A unique aspect of this event is its ability to connect with multiple audiences. First the event connects with the visitors who entered the contest and then connects with visitors who pass by to observe or judged the water safety messages.



- Conducted Glow Swim Event on 8 August 2015. The event was targeted towards teens and young families. Visitors were offered a unique opportunity to enjoy the beach after its normal closing time and participate in event's activities free of charge. The objective of this event was to provide information out to the public regarding life jackets in a unique and fun way that provokes them to wear life jackets whenever they are on or near the water.



More information regarding the Chalk the Walk and Glow Swim Events and how you can conduct these kinds of events at your project can be found on the NRM Gateway in the water safety section <http://corpslakes.usace.army.mil/employees/watersafety/toolbox.cfm?Step=2&Cat=Special%20Events%20and%20Activities&District=All&Id=0>.

Northwestern Division (NWD) Initiatives

Kansas City District (NWK) Initiative

Park rangers continue to work closely with ACE-IT for graphic development and support to develop water safety promotional artwork. Artwork to the right will be in the 2015 Kansas Fall Hunting Guide.



Portland District (NWP) Initiative

On 29 August 2015, the USACE hosted Boy Scout Night at the Eugene Emeralds Baseball Game in Eugene, OR to promote water safety. During the game audio and video PSAs were played, Park Ranger Christie Johnson was interviewed on the radio during the 3rd inning, an information table was staffed by USACE volunteers before and during the game, Bobber the Water Safety Dog was also at the game interacting with the audience and Bobber the Water Safety Dog cartoons were shown during the Boy Scout camp-out on the field after the game.



Seattle District (NWS) Initiatives

Albeni Falls Dam Initiatives

- Water safety interpretive programs were conducted at local libraries as part of the National Summer Reading Program.
- Life jacket loaner boards were inspected and maintained.
- Water safety promotional products developed by the National Water Safety Program and others were given out to reward visitors for playing it safe or learning how to play it safe by doing such things as wearing a life jacket or bike helmet and answering water safety questions.



South Atlantic Division (SAD) Initiatives

Savannah District (SAS) Initiative

J. Strom Thurmond Lake Initiative

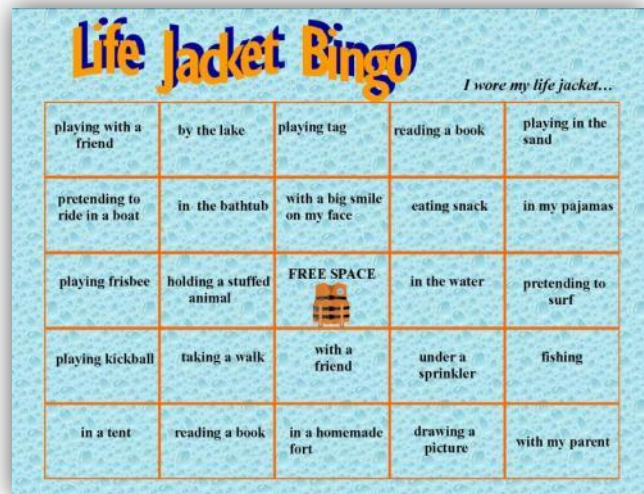
Park rangers partnered with WRDW News 12 television station in Augusta, GA, Clarks Hill Sea Tow Foundation, Georgia and South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, Miss South Carolina and other local pageant queens to create two water safety video PSAs. The PSAs will be televised on local television channels and on social media over the Labor Day holiday weekend. The PSAs can be viewed and downloaded at these links

<https://www.dvidshub.net/video/422341/play-safe-play-smart-wear-your-life-jacket-1#.VfInSpfG8pp>

<https://www.dvidshub.net/video/422346/play-safe-play-smart-wear-your-life-jacket-2#.VfloApfG8pp>.

Wilmington District (SAW) Initiatives

An interactive “Life Jacket Bingo” game was created for use as a handout or social media tool. The goal is to provoke participants to wear life jackets in various situations while trying to get “Bingo.” Participants win a water safety promotional prize if they get “Bingo.” Numerous people have been reached after this activity was posted on Facebook.



Falls and Jordan Lakes Initiative

Safe Kids Wake County and Wake Med Health & Hospitals concluded their Swim Safe Program on 28 August 2015. Throughout the summer, they alternated between swim beaches at Falls and Jordan Lakes every Friday promoting water and sun safety and properly fitting children and adults with free life jackets purchased by Safe Kids at a discount from Cabela's. This initiative was made possible by a \$2,500 grant awarded to Safe Kids Wake County from the North Carolina Division of the American Trauma Society. A total of 250 life jackets were distributed.

John H. Kerr Lake Initiative

Park rangers made direct interpretive contacts with participants during the Forest L. Wood (FLW) Cup Fishing Tournament on 29 August 2015 at John H. Kerr Lake promoting water safety and providing information regarding what the lake has to offer.

Philpott Lake Initiative

On 8 August 2015, USACE employees staffed a booth to promote water safety at the Smith River Festival. The Smith River is 45 miles of scenic beauty flowing through communities from the base of Philpott Lake Dam in Bassett, VA down to Eden, NC. Participants including paddlers enjoyed a variety of different activities during the festival.

Southwestern Division (SWD) Initiatives

Little Rock District (SWL) Initiatives

Millwood Lake Initiative

A new water safety billboard has been put in place that focuses on alcohol and boating. The USACE partnered with the Bill Varner Family to share their tragic loss of their son so that it might save the lives of others. Their son was killed in May 2013 during a boating accident that occurred at Grand Lake in Oklahoma. The boat that their son was in was being operated by someone that had been consuming alcohol. The family's loss led to the Varner's championing BUI legislation in Arkansas and a new law regarding driving a vessel while intoxicated went into effect 1 July 15. The billboard is located north of Texarkana, AR\TX on US Highway 71. The sign's owner Fairway Outdoors is planning to leave the billboard in place indefinitely



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Norfolk & Bull Shoals Lakes



Natural Resources Specialist Kathleen Payne presented a water safety interpretive program to a large crowd at the Marion County Library in Yellville, AR. The presentation was part of the Wednesday Heroes Program at the library.

Fort Worth District (SWF) Initiatives

On 6 August 2015, Park Ranger Rob Giacomozzi Sr. briefed the 20th Engineer Battalion at Fort Hood on the recent drowning that occurred at Belton Lake and provided some important water safety tips to all of the soldiers during the briefing.

Trinity Region Initiatives

On 3 August 2015, Recreation Business Line Manager James Murphy presented a water safety interpretive program at the Southwest YMCA in Fort Worth. A partner during this event was Lonestar Lifesavers who offer free swimming lessons to disadvantaged children.



On 21 August 2015, USACE employees and Bobber the Water Safety Dog promoted water safety during the Family First Day Event in Colony, Texas. The event was broadcast to the North Texas area on WFAA Channel 5 evening news.



Galveston District (SWG) Initiative



USACE worked along with Safe Kids Greater Houston to promote water safety during the Harris County Precinct One Street Olympics Summer Games on 19 August 2015. USACE employees staffed an interactive water safety booth during the event to promote the importance of learning to swim well and Bobber the Water Safety Dog was one of the mascots in the opening parade.

South Pacific Division (SPD) Initiatives

Sacramento District (SPK) Initiatives

Park rangers at the Northern and Southern Area Lakes continued to promote water safety by making direct interpretive water safety contacts, conducting boat patrol on the weekends, presenting water safety interpretive programs and maintaining life jacket loaner stations.

San Francisco District (SPN) Initiatives

Lake Mendocino Initiatives

The lake continues to face low lake levels. One of the two boat ramps is closed and the number of boaters is down this recreation season. Park rangers continue to make direct interpretive water safety contacts at the boat ramp and campground areas and maintain life jacket loaner stations.