

Pamlico Sail & Power Squadron

Washington Mayor Mac Hodge signs a Proclamation declaring May 19 to 25, 2018 as Safe Boating Week in Washington to coordinate with National Safe Boating Council's Campaign in raising the public's awareness of boating safety. Pictured to the left beside Mayor Hodges is Steve Schwing, Executive Officer and to the right Sharon Alligood, Commander, of the Pamlico Sail & Power Squadron a unit of the United States Power Squadrons® known as America's Boating Club®. They support safety programs and public educational opportunities along with free boat inspections.



Most recreational boaters, sailors, personal water craft and fishermen are by now either on the water or making preparations to enjoy the enormous river/bay resources we are blessed to have in the Washington area. This year the theme of the National Safe Boating Campaign is “Ready, Set, Wear It”!

North Carolina ranks in the top 8 states for boater fatalities with a significant number of boaters drowning each year would be alive today had they worn their life jackets; boater education has shown to make a significant difference in boating accidents and related injuries.

Current published USCG reports, drowning has reported cause of death in three fourths of boating fatalities. With 83% of those drowned were not wearing life jackets. It is clear that

hundreds of those might have been saved had they worn a life jacket. Also, it is further reported that 77% of deaths occurred on boats where the operator did not receive boating safety instruction.

On Saturday, May 19th, the Pamlico Sail & Power Squadron will be at the Washington Farmers Market and at the Washington Waterfront Free Docks. Squadron members will provide information concerning safety requirements, North Carolina state boating regulations, boating education and we will have several different types of personal floatation devices (PFDs) on display. In addition, our Vessel Safety Inspectors will be available for VSC Inspections at the Waterfront Docks. For more information on America's Boating Club and your local Pamlico Sail & Power Squadron visit our website at <http://www.pamlicosailandpowersquadron.org>

