

Press Release

On Monday afternoon, Washington Mayor Donald Sadler signed a Proclamation declaring May 20 to 26, 2023 as Safe Boating Week in Washington/Beaufort County to coordinate with the National Safe Boating Council's Campaign in raising the public's awareness of boating safety and in particular wearing your lifejackets.



Pictured to the left beside Mayor Sadler is Darrell Hasslinger and to the right Kelly Hasslinger of America's Boating Club of the Pamlico; a unit of the United States Power Squadrons® known as America's Boating Club®. Their mission is to provide local safety programs and public educational opportunities along with free recreational boat inspections for all types of vessels.

Most recreational power 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. The theme of the National Safe Boating Campaign is "Wear It". North Carolina ranks in the top 10 states for boater fatalities with a significant number of boaters drowning each year would be alive today had they worn their life jackets. It's further

reported that boater education has shown to make a significant difference in boating accidents and related injuries.

The March 2023 release of USCG recreational boating reports show that 81% of fatal boating accident victims due to drowning. Of those drowning victims, 83% were not wearing a life jacket. It is clear that hundreds of those might have been saved had they worn a life jacket. It is further reported that 75% of deaths occurred on boats where the operator did not receive boating safety instruction. Based on increased boat sales, insurance policies taken out, insurance claims and calls for towing assistance the USCG reports a significant rise in boating activity.

On Saturday, May 20th, America's Boating Club of the Pamlico will kick off National Safe Boating week at the Washington Wal-Mart main entrance. Look for us as we further spotlight the importance of safe boating. 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, boating education and a sign-up for your free Vessel Safety Inspections.

For more information and education opportunities available through your local America's Boating Club of the Pamlico visit our website at www.pamlicosailandpowersquadron.org

