



On Monday afternoon, Washington Mayor Donald Sadler signed a Proclamation declaring May 18 to 24, 2024 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 the importance of wearing lifejackets.



Pictured to the left beside Mayor Sadler is Mike Johnson and to the right Terri Johnson of America's Boating Club of the Pamlico; a unit of the United States Power Squadrons® known as America's Boating Club®. The Squadron's 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".

The US Coast Guard latest recreational boating reports show that 75% of fatal boating accident victims due to drowning. Of those drowning victims, 85% 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 74% of deaths occurred on boats where the operator did not receive boating safety instruction. In particular, boating navigation rules were a contributing factor in 50% accidents, 35% deaths and nearly 60% of injuries.

On Saturday, May 18th, America's Boating Club of the Pamlico will kick off National Safe Boating week at the Chocowinity Fire/EMS Spring Heat Car & Truck Show on 3831 US-17. 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 as well as a sign-up for your free 2024 Vessel Safety Inspections by their certified VSC Inspectors.

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

