



THE CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Friday, June 20, 2003

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The focus of the NTSB was geographically dispersed this week as issues ranged from advanced aviation technologies demonstrated at the Paris Air Show to the significant marine accident in Oregon, which required the launch of a full investigation team. Once again, the multimodal responsibilities of the NTSB are reflected through world-wide activities.

Member John Goglia and **Vice Chairman Mark Rosenker** joined Investigator-in-Charge **Rob Jones** in successfully leading NTSB activities for the tragedy in Oregon when a commercial sport

fishing vessel capsized, leaving 11 dead. It is important to note that at least half of those lives saved were wearing PFDs — a simple act that can literally save lives.

New safety technologies for aviation as well as new aircraft were demonstrated at the Paris Air Show where **Member Carol Carmody** and I attended earlier in the week. Successful meetings were held with key industry stakeholders and our sister organization in France, the BEA. The goal of this trip was to support our focus on aviation safety both domestically and internationally.

With summer in full swing and the July 4th Holiday weekend approaching, the NTSB will continue to focus on its safety mission urging boaters to wear PFDs, drivers and passengers to buckle their seatbelts, and all modes of transportation to put safety first.

Ellen G. Engleman

NTSB INVESTIGATES THE CAPSIZING OF THE TAKI TOO

For the second time in three weeks, the NTSB has launched on a major marine accident. On May 25th, the Board launched a team to Miami to investigate an explosion aboard the cruise ship Norway. On June 14th, the NTSB sent a team of 12 investigators, led by NTSB IIC **Rob Jones**, to the capsizing of the passenger vessel Taki Too. The Taki Too

capsized as it sailed out of Tillamook Bay, Oregon. It is reported that 19 people were aboard the vessel.

The investigative team was accompanied by **Member John Goglia**, who served as principal press spokesman for the team, **Ted Lopatkiewicz** the on-scene press officer, and **Vice Chairman Mark Rosenker**.



Member Goglia updates the press on the NTSB investigation of the Taki Too in Tillamook Bay, Oregon.

NTSB ALL HANDS MESSAGES



Reduction in the Federal Tax Rate

The Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2003 reduced the US Federal income tax rate effective January 2003. The National Business Center has implemented this change and it will be reflected on your salary check of June 20, 2003. While the tax rate reduction for Federal taxes is effective back to January 2003, IRS guidance (<http://www.irs.gov>) states that the actual withholding of taxes at the new rate is not retroactive. You will receive the benefit of the retroactive tax rate reduction when you file your 2003 Federal Tax Return. If you have any questions or need any additional information, you should contact **Emily Carroll** at 202-314-6233 or carrole@ntsb.gov.

On the Hill...

Congress continued to focus on the reauthorization of transportation modes.

The FAA reauthorization bill including an amendment increasing the responsibilities of air carriers to families of victims passed the House of Representatives. The House has started the mark up of the Coast Guard and Maritime reauthorization bill.



NTSB STAFF ASSISTS WITH SPACE SHUTTLE COLUMBIA PUBLIC HEARING

The Columbia Accident Investigation Board (CAIB) held a public hearing and press conference in the NTSB Board Room and Conference Center on June 12. The CAIB is planning to hold press conferences June 24th and July 8th at the NTSB to provide an update on the investigation. **Terry Williams** and **Carolyn Dargan** were instrumental in preparation for the CAIB Public Hearing. Terry Williams, who provided media support for 8 weeks in Houston, also helped handle the press on behalf of the investigators.



The Columbia Accident Investigation Board at the June 12th public hearing.

NTSB SUCCESSES

Office of Research and Engineering— **Gina John** designed a brochure advertising the NTSB Academy course: *Transportation Disaster Response: A Course for Law Enforcement Officials*.

Office of the Chief Financial Officer—Based on the latest report from Citibank, there are **no** individual travel, purchase or office travel cards with a balance more than 60 days old.

STATE OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Office of the Chairman— Chairman Ellen Engleman told about 200 law enforcement, health, and safety advocates from 5 states at an Impaired Driving Summit that she supported their efforts to conduct high visibility enforcement of seat belt and drunk driving laws. The Chairman commended the efforts of the Checkpoint Strike Force to help in the fight against hard core drinking drivers.

Office of the Vice Chairman— Vice Chairman Mark Rosenker delivered a speech to the Personal Flotation Device Manufacturers Association. The speech, three days after his NTSB investigation launch to the capsized Taki Too, in Oregon, focused on the strong need for wearing PFDs, as was reinforced by that accident.

Offices of the Members—Member John Goglia and Member Dick Healing met with NTSB regional office staff in Colorado to discuss various NTSB aviation accident investigations.