



THE CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Friday, October 3, 2003

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

With the aftermath of Hurricane Isabel's visit to the DC area last week, many of the NTSB family have been focused on clean-up and recovery efforts. Our hearts and support go out to all that suffered through this event with our prayers for full recovery. Fortunately the majority of the damage involved property loss and for that we must be grateful.

Isabel brought home a continued lesson – the importance of our

national transportation system -- a system that includes roads, bridges, rivers and highways. The hurricane managed to affect us all – delays, closed roads, downed trees and rising rivers. As the system comes back on-line in all modes, the NTSB continues in its safety-first mission. This has been a week of focus on personal floatation devices in recreational boating and prevention and reduction of hard-core drunk drivers on our roads.

Our SWAT (Safety With A Team) efforts also continued with meetings with the FAA, a personal discussion with Federal Rail Administrator Allan Rutter, setting additional meeting dates with Federal Motor Carriers and outreach to our national media. Special thanks to all that put "Safety First."

Ellen G. Engleman

NTSB CONTINUES TO AGGRESSIVELY PURSUE TRANSPORTATION SAFETY



Bill Gossard, Fred Messmann, Chairman Engleman, "Buddy the Cat," George Stewart, Elaine Weinstein, and David Clark promoting the use of PFDs for everyone.

Recreational boating and impaired driving were the focus of the Board's advocacy activities this week.

It began with a Board briefing that addressed recreational boating and impaired driving recommendations. Fred Messmann, Nevada Boating Law Administrator and incoming president of the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators briefed the Board on recreational boating safety progress, problems, issues and priorities for the future. He emphasized the

importance of using lifejackets and the problems of boating while intoxicated.

Former U.S. Representative Susan Molinari, Chairman of The Century Council (TCC), assisted by TCC President & CEO Ralph Blackman, and Senior VP Bill Georges briefed the Board on the hard core drinking driver, new research, and the Council's programs to combat hard core drinking driving. They focused on the importance of swift identification, certain punishment, and effective treatment for hard core drinking drivers. Wendy Hamilton, National President of MADD, briefed the Board on minimum drinking age laws, underage drinking, and MADD's youth programs. She emphasized the fact that there are 10.1 million underage drinkers in the US.

On Thursday, Chairman Engleman participated with Century Council Chairman Susan Molinari in a press conference announcing the new "Hard Core Drunk Driving Sourcebook"

developed by The Century Council with assistance from the Governor's Highway Safety Association.

Chairman Engleman also met with Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) Student of the Year, Molly Flynn, who is from Indiana, and Penny Wells, SADD Executive Director. SADD has been a strong advocate for highway safety improvements, especially addressing youth. Chairman Engleman encouraged their continued efforts on behalf of measures to implement Safety Board recommendations.



NTSB Board Members at the NASBLA, TCC and MADD briefing.

HIGHWAY SAFETY WEIGHS IN

Ten NTSB staff toured the Maryland State Police Commercial Truck Inspection Facility on I-70 in West Friendship, MD. This facility provides state-of-the-art weigh in motion, height detection in motion, and targeted inspections of over 1 million commercial vehicles per year. Members of the Offices of Highway Safety, Safety Recommendations and Accomplishments, and Research and Engineering participated in vehicle inspections of truck air brakes, tires, suspension systems, steering, logbooks, and other safety equipment/systems. In addition, the group observed the operations of one of the nations most sophisticated weigh stations which identifies poorly maintained and/or overweight trucks by using random sampling and by targeting repeat-offender motor carriers. They also have mobile units to catch trucks that circumvent the weigh stations. **Pete Kotowski** of the NTSB's Office of Highway Safety organized the event and participants included **Elaine Weinstein, Jim Rosenberg, Ed Pacchetti, Jana Price, Jennifer Russert, Michele McMurtry, Burt Simon, Paula Sind-Prunier, and Dwight Foster.**



NTSB Staff and MD State Police at the Maryland State Police Commercial Truck Inspection Facility.

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS FOR 15-PASSENGER VANS



July 1, 2001, Randleman, North Carolina accident.

Much of the NTSB staff belong to churches and other organizations that use 15-passenger vans. The Board urges

staff to share the vital safety suggestions with these groups that were highlighted in the final accident reports of two fatal van crashes that killed 4 and injured 10. In both crashes, the left rear tire failed, the drivers lost control of the vehicles, and the vans rolled over several times. After the board issued these reports, letters and safety advice was sent to more than 40 large national organizations and strongly suggested that they alert their members. While this campaign is shaping up to be successful, we also want to make sure NTSB staff and their outside organizations get the message. Click on the NTSB website and give these safety suggestions to anyone who can benefit: http://www.nts.gov/Surface/highway/alert_15-passenger-vans.htm.

NTSB ACADEMY

Marjorie Murtagh, Jim Scheffer, Bob Ford, Rob Jones and Tom Roth-Roffy from the Office of Marine Safety presented the NTSB Academy's Basic Accident Investigation Course marine modules to two new NTSB marine accident investigators, three safety officers/accident investigators from the Swedish Armed Forces and a human performance investigator from the Canadian Transportation Safety Board of Canada (TSB of Canada). One of the Swedish safety officers presented a methodology developed in Sweden for evaluating and controlling operator fatigue. The TSB of Canada human performance investigator presented his agency's protocol for conducting human performance transportation accident investigation. On September 26th, the NTSB Academy Basic Accident Investigation Course closed with a graduation ceremony for the diverse student body of both US and foreign transportation accident investigators, including new NTSB marine accident investigators **Brian Curtis** and **Morgan Turrell.**



Jim Scheffer (NTSB), Morgan Turrell (NTSB), Jon Stuart(TSBCanada), Glenn Grimhage (Swedish Armed Forces), Morgan Carlsson (Swedish Armed Forces), Terjc Fredriksson(Swedish Armed Forces), Brian Curtis (NTSB).

NTSB ALL HANDS MESSAGES



NTSB Board Meeting—The October 7th, Sunshine Meeting to discuss the Accident Report for the investigation into the collision of a Burlington Northern Santa Fe Freight Train with a Metrolink Passenger Train at Placentia, California, April 23, 2002, will be available via Live Webcast. Visitors can view the Board's public meetings while in progress by logging on to <http://www.nts.gov> and/or <http://stream.realimpact.net/?file=realimpact/gmucc/ntsbsmil-080503.smi>.

Blood Drive—The blood drive has been rescheduled for Friday, October 10, 2003 from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Please check the old sign-up page. If you are not available, please cancel or reschedule. Please select one of the hyperlinks below to view the old schedule.

For Donor: <http://webmtest/blooddrive-donor>
For Volunteer: <http://webmtest/blooddrive-volunteer>

On the Hill...



The NTSB began the fiscal year on a continuing resolution. Chairman Engleman continues to meet with Members of Congress.

NTSB SUCCESSES

Office of Aviation Safety—Kudos to the folks in Atlanta, who have been extremely busy. Over the past 30 days, there have been **SEVEN** launches on seven separate fatal aircraft accidents in the Southern region of the U.S. **Butch Wilson** just launched on his third field accident in 30 days. During the same 30-day period, **Corky Smith** and **Cathy Gagne** each launched twice. In addition, the Atlanta Office will be on call for the folks in the short-staffed Miami office for two weeks. The Miami offices currently accumulated the highest caseload per investigator of any region this fiscal year.

Barbara Zimmermann is assisting in the regional investigation of a runway incursion (collision) at a Las Vegas airport. Both planes were under ATC control at the time; this airport has the highest number of runway incursions nationwide.

Office of Highway Safety—Staff completed the presentation on 15-passenger van issues to the Airport Ground Transportation Association.

Digital Cameras—Headquarters staff is working to inventory and distribute digital cameras to NTSB investigators. 35 additional cameras were delivered to AS completing their order based on needs they had identified.

NTSB OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Vice Chairman Rosenker Addressed U.S. Marine Safety Association—The Vice Chairman addressed the Association's annual meeting in Las Vegas on September 18. His remarks provided a general overview of the Safety Board's recreational boating recommendations. The Association has been a long-time supporter of the Safety Board. He was accompanied by **Bill Gossard**.

Member Carmody Addressed North Carolina Lifesavers Conference—Member Carmody addressed the opening plenary session of this statewide conference of highway safety advocates and program operators in Greensboro, on September 16. She called upon North Carolina to address a broad range of Safety Board recommendations, including occupant protection, impaired driving, young drivers, and 15-passenger vans. She closed by describing the state outreach initiative, and exhorting conference attendees to contact their legislators.

Comprehensive Hardcore Drinking Driver Bill Enacted In Pennsylvania—We saw the results of our advocacy efforts this week with the enactment of a comprehensive hardcore drinking driver bill in Pennsylvania. This bill lowered the blood alcohol concentration to 0.08, created an aggravated DWI offense at 0.15 BAC, improved driver license sanctions, assessment and treatment and substantially increased requirements for the use of alcohol ignition interlock devices. Thanks to **Kevin Quinlan**, **Steve Blackistone**, and **Danielle Roerber**, who worked with Pennsylvania legislative and executive staff to get this important legislation adopted.