



## THE CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Friday, August 15, 2003

### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

As the summer months continue, personal and recreational boating is a favorite American pastime. It is important to remember safe boating rules -- "don't drink and drive, avoid excessive speed, wear a personal flotation device and be aware of the basic boating rules and responsibilities."

Last year there were more than 700 deaths in boating accidents. This year, two of our major accidents are marine investigations: the explosion aboard the cruise ship *Norway* and capsizing of the small passenger vessel *Taki Too*. The Board is dedicated to safety in all modes of transportation and will

work diligently with the US Coast Guard and marine associations on education and outreach activities to promote marine and boating safety.

Vice Chairman Rosenker has focused on recreational boating safety issues, recently speaking at the Personal Flotation Device Manufacturers Association (PFDMA) conference in Florida and testifying before the Natural Resources Committee of the Wisconsin State Assembly on a pending bill that would require personal flotation device use by children aboard recreational vessels.

As a "live-aboard" boater, I personally share in the joy of a wonderful lifestyle. I hope we can continue to ensure that safety comes first.

*Ellen G. Engleman*

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for  
NTSB  
Successes

### NTSB AND NASBLA AGGRESSIVELY PURSUE BOATING SAFETY

Chairman Engleman met with the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators President Alvin Taylor (South Carolina Boating Law Administrator) and Executive Director George Stewart to discuss recreational boating safety issues. "Boats are social vessels" said Chairman Engleman, referring to the 12 million recreational boats and 70 million boaters in the US. But she also noted that "sometimes boaters

unintentionally put their most important treasures, their families, at risk." Thus, it is important to follow basic safety precautions, including that children wear life jackets and that boat operators know the rules of the road." The Chairman and NASBLA President agreed to work together to introduce some boating safety training courses at the Academy.

Chairman Engleman will be speaking at the NASBLA annual meeting in September.



Chairman Engleman, Julie Beal, Bill Gossard, Rob Henry and Elaine Weinstein met with NASBLA President Alvin Taylor and Executive Director George Stewart.

## NTSB ALL HANDS MESSAGES



**TSP Catch-Up Contribution Election**—Beginning July 1st, eligible TSP participants were able to submit elections to make TSP Catch-Up contributions during the year 2003. TSP Catch-Up contributions are supplemental tax-deferred employee contributions, which are in addition to regular contributions. The elections will be effective the first full pay period in **August**. Eligible participants may make elections whenever they desire; they are not limited to the TSP open seasons.

Employees may participate in the TSP Catch-Up contribution program if they are currently employed and in a pay status, age 50 or (50 by year end) and older, or contributing either the maximum TSP percentage and/or dollar amount allowed by his or her retirement coverage, and contributing an amount that will cause the employee to reach the yearly IRS elective maximum deferral limit by the end of that year. Any participant who is in a 6-month non-contribution period is not eligible to make TSP Catch-Up contributions during that time. If an employee terminates regular TSP contribution, the TSP Catch-Up contribution must be terminated. If the employee goes into a non-pay status, the TSP Catch-Up contribution will automatically stop.

If you have additional questions, please contact Pam Goins at (202) 314-6326 or by Email at [goinsp@ntsb.gov](mailto:goinsp@ntsb.gov).

## On the Hill...



The Congress is in recess until September 3rd. The Board continues to meet with Senate staff on our reauthorization and appropriations bills.

## NTSB SUCCESSES

**Office of Aviation Safety**—Congratulations go to **Al Yurman** and **Tim Monville**, Southeast Regional Aviation Office, **Corky Smith**, Southern Regional Aviation Office, **Ed Malinowski** and **Mitch Gallo**, North Central Regional Aviation Office, **Jim Struhsaker**, **Brannon Mayer**, and **Dave Bowling**, Central Mountain Regional Aviation, **Nicole Charnon**, Southwest Regional Aviation Office, **Deepak Joshi**, Aviation Engineering Division, and **Gary Hammack**, Regional Operations and General Aviation Division. These investigators have been awarded *Safety Accomplishment Certificates of Appreciation* for going above and beyond their routine duties to complete a safety improvement.

**Office of Rail, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Investigations**—Ron Hynes has been selected as the Associate Director of the Railroad Division. Ron has an education in engineering and over 25 years of experience in the railroad industry. He has been with the Safety Board for over 5 years, working out of our Atlanta regional office.

## STATE OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

**AAA Releases Distracted Driving Survey**—The AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety released results of a survey of driver distractions, with a recommendation that state motor vehicle administrations adopt distracted driving language in their manuals. AAA estimates that distracted driving contributes to 25 to 50 percent of traffic fatalities. Its research also found that cell phone use is less common than a number of other driver distractions. Kevin Quinlan attended the press conference for SR and HS and provided HS with materials and a briefing. Col. James Champagne, Vice Chair of the Governor's Highway Safety Association and Governor's Representative in Louisiana, expressed unequivocal support for the Board's recommendations to the States on accident report forms and cell phone restrictions for teen novice drivers.