

THE CHAIRMAN'S CORNER



Friday, June 4, 2004

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

This week, the California Highway Patrol reported that fewer DUI-related incidents occurred this Memorial Day weekend than during the same period last year. Reducing hard core drinking driving is on the NTSB's most wanted list for action by the states. Fatalities in alcohol-related crashes are on the rise nationally. In 2002, more than 17,000 people were killed in alcohol-related crashes on the nation's highways, representing a death every 30 minutes. An estimated 258,000 people were injured in crashes

where police reported that alcohol was present - an average of one person injured every two minutes.

We are glad to see that progress is being made. Many people note that California is often the leader in national trends. We hope that the trend for this critical safety concern will lead the nation once again.

Ellen Engleman Conners

Academy Hosts Data Recorder Conference

On June 3rd & 4th, the NTSB Academy hosted the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) Conference regarding event data recorder (EDR) technologies for highway vehicles. Over 120 attendees reviewed the state-of-the-art of passenger and commercial vehicle accident recorder technology. EDR device research, validation, data and privacy issues, accident reconstruction and EDR data issues were also discussed.

Chairman Engleman Conners and Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administrator Annette Sandberg welcomed participants, which is the first event the SAE has held at the Academy. Thanks to **Chris Voeglie** (HS) and **Sarah McComb** (RE) who assisted in planning and coordination.



Participants in the SAE Event Data Recorder Conference test a state-of-the-art driving simulator

NTSB Joins in Safe Boating Campaign



Julie Harbold-Perrot, Actor John Amos, Steve Blackistone, and Chairman Engleman Conners on the Presidential Yacht "Sequoia."

Actor John Amos was the featured speaker for the kickoff event of National Safe Boating Week at the Gangplank Marina in Washington, DC. Mr. Amos, who played Admiral Fitzwallace on "The West Wing," is an avid boater and the celebrity spokesperson for safe boating. He emphasized the need for boaters, especially children, to wear personal flotation devices (PFDs). Chairman Ellen Engleman Conners echoed Mr. Amos' remarks and also announced the National PFD Forum to be held at the NTSB Academy on August 25, 2004. **Kevin Quinlan**, **Steve Blackistone**, and **Julie Harbold-Perrot** (Safety Recommendations & Communications) accompanied the Chairman. During the event the group got a tour of the Presidential Yacht "Sequoia", which has been designated a national historic landmark.

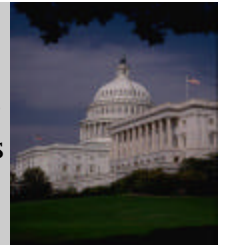
NTSB ALL HANDS MESSAGES



The National Transportation Safety Board will hold a public Board meeting Tuesday, June 8, at 9:30am in its Board Room and Conference Center, 429 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W., Washington, D.C. for the July 26, 2002 crash of a FedEx Boeing 727. The meeting can be viewed via live webcast at: <http://www.nts.gov/events/Boardmeeting.htm>

On the Hill...

The NTSB sent the final reports for two major accidents to Capitol Hill this week. The first report involved the October 13, 2001 School Bus Bridge Run-Off Accident in Omaha, Nebraska. The second was the December 30, 2002 Sinking of the Small Passenger Vessel Panther Near Everglades City, Florida.



Marine Safety Promotes Investigator

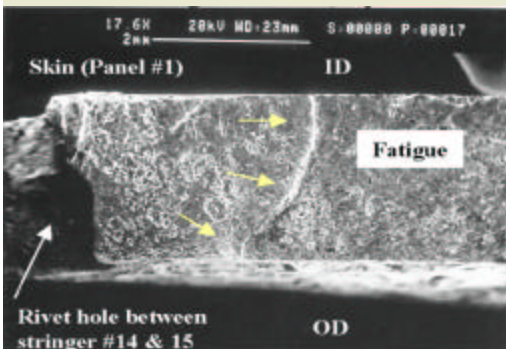
The Office of Marine Safety has converted Mariette Burer from a Student Co-operative Education participant to their new Marine Investigative Analyst. Mariette received her undergraduate degree from George Mason University in May, 2001 and joined the program in August, 2001. She received a Masters of Science in Engineering Management from the George Washington University in January, 2004.

Mariette will be working in the Major Investigations Division of Marine Safety, specializing in Survival Factors. She recently launched with the Marine Safety team on the Water Taxi accident in Baltimore, Maryland.



New investigator Mariette Burer is congratulated by Jim Scheffer, Chief of Major Investigations Division

NTSB Testifies Before Senate



An electron microscope image of a fatigue crack in the wing of a C-130A which crashed near Pearblossom, CA

NTSB Chairman Engleman Conners testified before the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation on June 2nd. Senator John McCain chaired the Full Committee Hearing, which included testimony from FAA Associate Administrator Nick Sabatini, USDA Undersecretary Mark Rey, Mark Timmons, President of Neptune Aviation Services and William Grantham, President of International Air Response, Inc. Investigations into two accidents in 2002, and a reevaluation of a 1994 accident led the NTSB to recommend that the USDA and the US Department of the Interior develop maintenance and inspection programs for aircraft that are used in firefighting operations. It was also recommended that the FAA require the same maintenance and inspection programs, and that the FAA serve as the focal point for collecting continuing

airworthiness data about surplus military aircraft in order to share that with subsequent owners and operators of aircraft converted for use in firefighting. Special thanks to **John Clark**, **Tom Haueter**, **David Clark** and **Cheryl McCulloch** for their work in the preparation of this testimony.