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Areas of Expertise

- Expert witness and litigation support, criminal and civil. Evaluation of evidence, examination of experts and depositions, prepare exhibits and expert report, testify.
- Marine/boating accident investigation and reconstruction; vessel collision analysis; assessment of liability/culpability.
- Interpretation of Inland and International Rules of the Road; operation of vessels; proper boat handling and seamanship; navigation and piloting; lake and waterways management; regulatory markers and aids to navigation.
- Recreational boating safety enforcement & education; operational law; towed water sports, marina and tour boat operations.
- Scouting, youth groups, and service organization training and/or speaking engagements offered to promote recreational boating safety to give back to the boating community.

Vessel Operations

Boat Operator – power/sail/manually propelled - 1965 - Present
Self Employed Boating Safety Consultant - 1996 – Present
United States Coast Guard Auxiliary – 1987 - Present
Lake Patrol Officer, Big Bear Municipal Water District (BBMWD) - 12 years
Lake Operations Supervisor, BBMWD - 5 years
Licensed for-Hire Passenger Vessel Operator - 30 years
Tour Boat Captain:
Sierra Belle (88 passenger) - 2002 - 2003
Miss Liberty (125 passenger) - 2007 - 2009
Miss Big Bear (50 passenger) – 2011

Licenses/Certificates/Qualifications Past & Current

International Association of Marine Investigators (IAMI)
Certified Marine Investigator – No. 2071 - 200
Instructor # 2071-1- 011 Boating Accident Investigations, Collisions and Single Vessel Accidents, Vessel Operations, Stop and Approach on Vessels
USCG Master's License - No. 918686
50 Ton Inland with Commercial Assistance Towing Endorsement
USCG Operator of Uninspected Passenger Carrying Vessel License - No. 296483
100 Ton Near Coastal with Commercial Assistance Towing Endorsement
California Department of Boating and Waterways (DBW) For-Hire License - No. 769
Qualified to Operate Powered Vessels on Sole State Waters (No Restrictions)
California Dept. of Boating & Waterways/California Boating Safety Officers Association (CBSOA)

Open Water Rescue & Enforcement Masters Certificate - No.102
Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (P.O.S.T.) - Subject Matter Expert
Designated Subject Teaching Credential - California Commission on Teacher Credentialing - 1996 "Boating Safety Occupations"
National Safe Boating Council
Instructor Certification - 2022 "On the Water Close Quarters and Open Water Powerboating"
USCG Auxiliary Certificates, Ratings, Qualifications
Auxiliary Operations Qualified (AUXOP): Search & Rescue, Navigation, Piloting, Weather, Communications, Seamanship, Patrols, Administration, Coxswain Rating, Boat Crew, PWC Operator, Master Instructor, Vessel Examiner, Air Observer, Air Operations Workshop Swim Egress Training and Water Survival, Team Coordination Training, Elected Officers Course, Leadership Course
ICS-100 Initial Response Training - National Incident Management System/FEMA
ICS-210 ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents - National Incident Management System/FEMA
IS-00700 An Introduction - National Incident Management System/FEMA
IS-00800 National Response Plan, An Introduction - National Incident Management System/FEMA

Work/Experience

Poster Marine Consulting, LLC

Self Employed Boating Safety Consultant - 1996 - Present

Investigator of Marine and Boating Accidents on Inland & Coastal Waters. Vessel Collision Analysis and Accident Investigation & Reconstruction. Investigations have included Single & Multiple Fatalities, Propeller Cuts & Other Injuries, Falls on Board, Collisions, Allisions, Sinkings, Groundings, Fire & Explosions, Water Ski Injuries, Hit & Run, Operating Under the Influence, OSHA, Wrongful Death, Regulatory Markers, Lake & Waterways Management.

Harbor Master

The Dock Club at Pine Knot Landing, Big Bear Lake - 2002 - 2003

Worked with on-site owner in overall management of private investment marina facility development, including slip sales. Concessions: boat & PWC rentals, tour boat, fuel dock, marine hardware & repair, water skiing & parasailing rides, new & used boat sales, commercial & private dock building. Operator/Trainer of 88 and 125-passenger tour boats.

Lake Operations Supervisor

BBMWD, Big Bear Lake, CA - 1996 - 2002

Duties included but not limited to: Responsible for scheduling and assigning Lake Patrol Officers, Seasonal Dispatch, and Ramp Attendants; Serving as the District's safety officer including all OSHA related requirements; Serving in Lake Patrol capacity as needed to supplement the work force; Being available for on-call emergencies; Serving as the District's Liaison with the State of California Department of Boating and Waterways; Coordination with San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department for joint Patrol activities; Overseeing safety and all special events on the Lake during event; overseeing processing of citations and court appearances; assuming responsibilities designated under SEMS and other emergency procedure plans; Overseeing and training staff on proper radio dispatch procedures.

Interviewing, selecting and orienting seasonal employees, coaching, counseling, and disciplining employees; planning, monitoring, and appraising job results; explaining policies and procedures; follow up on work results; managing and ensuring compliance with OSHA, SB 198, and IIPP (Illness and Injury Prevention) programs for the entire District; updating specialized training on a regular basis; contributing

to team effort by scheduling regular operations staff meetings; accomplishing related results as need; updating Operations Manual.

Supervising commercial and residential dock inspections with Lake Patrol to include achieving compliance with safety regulations through annual inspections.

Lake Analysis: collecting, analyzing, and summarizing information on various subjects such as Lake use trends, citations, boat permit sales totals, commercial marina operations. Collecting, organizing and preparing Limnological Monitoring results.

Monitoring collection of fees from recreational; submitting annual operations capitol purchase items; approving purchase orders; evaluating Quarthey budget financial reports; keeping operating expenditures within budget constraints.

Arranging and supervising community distribution of public informational materials; Attending Board and committee meetings as required; making presentations regarding projects, staffing and other District issues; preparing recommendations and reports on various topics; resolving conflicts and/or grievances from the public; working with General manager preparing written responses to the public on a variety of issues and/or complaints.

Attending educational workshops; reviewing professional publications; establishing personal networks; participating in job-related professional societies; keeping current on all California boating laws and OSHA regulations and reporting requirements.

Equipment & Uniform Procurement, Grant Acquisition, new Patrol Boat design and specifications, Liaison with Coast Guard Auxiliary, Design, Production & Ordering of Annual *Mtn. Waters Dispatch* Lake Magazine, Lake Maps, Boat Permits, Signage, Advisories.

Lake Patrol Officer

BBMWD, Big Bear Lake, CA - 1985 – 1996

Duties Included but not limited to: Responsible for Patrolling the Lake and Enforcing California Boating Laws, Harbors and Navigation Codes, and District Rules and Regulations per established procedures; teaching safe and defensive boating skills; issuing citations; responding to complaints and calls for help; mediating disputes; Conducting search and rescue operations; investigating suspicious activities; detaining suspects; calling other emergency agency assistance; securing facilities; preparing Accident & Incident reports; making court appearances; attending educational workshops; completing patrol assignments; Inspecting private and commercial docks; conducting fleet inspections at commercial marinas. Ensuring proper and timely markings of hazards & placement of regulatory marks,

Skipper of Sea Scout Ship 84 -1986 -1993

Unique Law Enforcement/Sea Scout Explorer Scouting Program Chartered by BBMWD

Responsible for Creating and Managing Overall Program. Development of Manual, Ranks & Advancement Criteria, Uniforms & Training, including Marlinspike, Traffic Control and Launch Ramp Safety, Probable Cause, Officer Safety, Vessel Identification & Equipment Inspections, Towing, Fire Fighting, Incident and Vessel Accident Investigation Form Completion, Arrests, Search & Seizure. Activities included Patrol Ride-a-longs, Boat Handling, Vessel Maintenance, Sailing, Water Skiing, Parasailing, Deep Sea fishing, Trips to USCG Base, San Pedro. Trophy Winner at the Explorer Olympics Competition, Hosted by the Norton AFB Security Police Explorers.

Instructor Regional Occupational Program -1987 - 1993

"Boating Safety Occupations" A local high school course designed to initiate students to Big Bear Lake and to explore the employment opportunities relating to the Lake. dovetailed and served as a feeder for the BBMWD Lake Explorers Program. Offered by Bear Valley Unified School District, Big Bear Lake, CA

Member United States Coast Guard Auxiliary -1987 - Present

Charter Member of Big Bear Lake Flotilla 11-12

Past Flotilla Commander, Vice Commander, multiple Flotilla, Division and District Staff Officer positions

California Boating Safety Officers Association (CBSOA) - 1990 - Present

Lifetime Member, Past President, Vice President, Southern Regional Director, 4 years on Board of Directors, contributor of articles to *"The Beacon"* - Quarterly Publication of CBSOA

Instructor DBW/Peace Officers Standards and Training (P.O.S.T. -1999 - 2001

"Boating Safety and Enforcement" A DBW course for new Boating Safety Enforcement Officers; Introduction to California Boating Law, Home Safety Course review, Boating Nomenclature, Vessel Identification, Carriage Requirements, Vessel Inspections, USCG Boating Acts, Terminations, Navigational Rules of the Road, Marlinpike, Operational Law, Reckless & Negligent Operation. Offered by Sacramento Regional Criminal Justice Training Center, taught in Sacramento, San Diego & Redding.

Achievements, Honors, Committee Memberships & Speaking Engagements

National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA)

2025 National Boating Standards Panel – Towed Water Sports Education Standard Workgroup Member
Project Goal: To develop a comprehensive education standard for Towed Water Sports, addressing a critical gap in recreational boating safety. This initiative aims to establish consistent educational guidelines covering safety protocols, hazard recognition, and conflict resolution for the growing towed water sports community. Standard follows the ANSI standard development process.

Consultant to DBW

Boating Safety Advisory Committee - 1998 (Senate Bill 545 - Rosenthal)

As CBSOA President, represented the Law Enforcement community in the quest to enhance boating safety and education of vessel operators, including mandatory education laws in California. Published findings of 17 recommendations offered to the Legislature per Section 658.6 of the Harbors & Navigation Code.

DBW Annual Boating Accident Report Revisions - 1998

Boating Accident Report Form & DBW Vessel Accident Report Form Revisions - 2000

1998 NASBLA Conference Guest Speaker

"How to Prepare for Mandatory Education in Your State", with Co-Speakers

Dan Flynn - Legislative Assistant to Senator Rosenthal

David Johnson - Legislation, DBW

International Association of Marine Investigators (IAMI)

Legislative Committee

CBSOA - Spark Plug Award recipient -1998

"Best Instructor in the 11th Coast Guard District" Competition Winner

Eagle Scout

Consultant/Instructor/Training Provided

Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (P.O.S.T.) - 1999 Curriculum Revisions

"Boating Safety Enforcement" Course

United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Master Instructor - Public Boating Education Classes: *Boating Skills & Seamanship, America's Waterways, About Boating Safely, Boats N' Kids* - 3 to 4 Courses Per Year - 30 years

Skipper of Sea Scout Ship 84 (Scout Leader) of the BBMWD Lake Explorers - 8 years

Instructor *"Lake Patrol Occupations"* Bear Valley Unified School Dist. - 6 years

Spring Valley Lake Association Lake Patrol, Spring Valley, CA

2011 - NAVRULES, Operational Law, Carriage Requirements, Vessel Inspections, Boarding Procedures, Officer Safety, Close Quarters Maneuvering, Report Writing, Witness Statement Collections

2012 - Personal Watercraft Operations, Introduction to Boating Under the Influence

2013 - Carriage Requirements, Vessel Inspections, Electric Shock Drowning

2022 - Vessel ID, Nomenclature, Carriage Requirements, Vessel Inspections, NAVRULES, Operational Law, Boarding Procedures, Officer Safety, Close Quarters Maneuvering, Securing the Scene, Witness Statement Collections, Proper Report Writing

U.S. Adaptive Recreation Center, Big Bear Lake, CA - Annual Boat Safety Training 2000 - Present

2023 National Association of Marine Surveyors (NAMS) - North Pacific Annual Regional Seminar, Bremerton, WA - Guest Speaker - Boat Accident Investigation Case Study; Rule 13 Overtaking

2024 National Association of Marine Surveyors (NAMS) - North Pacific Annual Regional Seminar, Bremerton, WA - Guest Speaker - Boat Accident Investigation Case Study; Boating Accident Reports, Vessel Accident Reports

2025 National Association of Marine Surveyors (NAMS) - North Pacific Annual Regional Seminar, Bremerton, WA - Guest Speaker – Boat Accident Investigation Case Study; A Chronology of the Rules Through the Collision Avoidance Funnel, NASBLA Towed Water Sports Education Standards Workshop

Education and Specialized Training

American Red Cross - Water Safety Instructor, Lifeguard, CPR, AED, First Aid

Emergency Medical Technician - San Bernardino Valley College 1976

Refresher Course for EMT- I Ambulance – Santa Ana College 1978

Boating Safety Course - DBW 1985

PC 832 – Arrest, Search & Seizure, Firearms - San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department 1985

Boating Safety and Enforcement - Basic - DBW 1985

Boating Skills and Seamanship - USCGAUX 1986

IR 3000 Breath Alcohol - San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department 1987

Lateral Gaze Nystagmus Training - DBW 1987

Intoxication Enforcement Training - DBW 1987

Advanced Boating Safety & Enforcement - DBW/National Criminal Justice Training 1988

Reserve Level II Module "B" - San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department 1989

Marine Firefighting - DBW 1991

Certificate of Proficiency EC44252 - San Bernardino Superintendent of Schools - 1993

Advanced Boating Accident Investigation/Reconstruction - DBW 1994

Advanced Boating Accident Investigation - Underwriters Laboratories 1996

Boating Intoxication Enforcement - DBW 1996

Boating Water Rescue & Enforcement - DBW 1997

Training Seminar for Marine Investigators - IAMI 1998

Marine Accident Investigation - ABYC 1998

Rescue Boat Symposium - Rescue 3 International 1999

Safety at Sea Seminar - Cruising World/US Sailing 1996 (Prevention and Recovery of Man Overboard, Emergency Evacuation Procedures, Boat and Crew Preparation, Heavy Weather Sailing, Medical Emergencies, Safety Equipment)

OSHA Compliance Seminar - The National Safety Institute 1996

An Overview of Ergonomics and The Americans with Disability Act - State Compensation Insurance Fraud 1996

33rd Annual Training Seminar - International Association of Marine Investigators 2023
 In-depth Case Study: The *Conception* Fire, Proportional Fault? An Analysis of Nav Rules, Gasoline Engines and Outdrives, Root Cause Failure Analysis - Methodology and Process, Did this Mechanical Breakdown Cause the Accident? Engine Failure Analysis, Witness Statement Analysis, Admiralty Law, Using Emerging Technology and High-Tech Equipment in Accident Investigation

2023 National Association of Marine Surveyors North Pacific Region Marine Surveyors Conference
 Fishing Vessel Stability, NAMS Ethics, AC Fault Current Testing, Kinetic Energy, Momentum and Inertia, Rigging Surveys, Confined Spaces, Fixed Fire Suppression Systems, Marine Coatings, Report Writing.

34th Annual Training Seminar - International Association of Marine Investigators 2024
 Insurance Fraud, HIN Policy Q & A with USCG, Maritime Law, Building Rapport & Verbal/Non-Verbal Deceptive Indicators, Marine Theft & Fraud, Forensic Photography and Illustration, Case Studies in Marine-Related Insurance Fraud, Seaworthiness, Electric Shock Drowning: The Invisible Killer, Marine Theft Investigations Workshop – Bringing Training Home

2024 National Association of Marine Surveyors North Pacific Region Marine Surveyors Conference
 Draft Surveys, Commercial Fishing Vessels, Ethics, Settling Cases with Science, Comments on Naval Architecture, Wooden Boat Restoration & Fastening, Vessel Fires & Explosions, Marine Accident Investigation & Reconstruction, Wooden Hull Fastener Inspection.

35th Annual Training Seminar - International Association of Marine Investigators 2025
 Investigators and Law Enforcement on the Stand, Explosions, Accident Investigations, Science Behind Mechanical Failure Analysis

2025 National Association of Marine Surveyors North Pacific Region Marine Surveyors Conference
 USPAP National Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice, Sea Trial Safety, Report Writing, Ethics, Confined Space, Dangers of Marine Aluminum Alloys, Surveying Wooden Boats, Shaft Failures and Analysis, Lithium Batteries, Appraising Marine Assets

36th Annual Training Seminar - International Association of Marine Investigators 2026
 Taming the Storm: From Conflict to Cooperation in High-Stakes Interviews, Fire Detection & Suppression Systems, The Importance of Methodical Testing in Investigations, Crash Investigation/Case Study, Marine Personal Liability & Injury Investigations, Reconstructing Incidents Using ECU Information (Engine Black Box)

California Boating Safety Officers Association

- 23rd Annual Training Seminar - 1996 - Hazardous Materials, Personal Watercraft Search & Rescue, Theft Identification & Recovery, Law Enforcement Update, Federal Firearms Laws, Bomb Identification & Firearm Identification
- 24th Annual Training Seminar - 1997
- 25th Annual Training Seminar - 1998 - New Gear for Dive Teams, Development of Personal Flotation Devices, Fuel Buster Extinguishing Agent, Open Forum on Mandatory Education, HiTek Night Vision, The Internet for Boating Safety Officers, International Jet Sports Boating Association, Rescue Jet Demonstration, Effects of Alcohol on PWC Operation, the USCG Coxswain School
- Southern Region Symposium - 1997 - Personal Watercraft, Hazardous Materials, Propeller Guards, El Nino, Critical Incidents, updates from local waterways
- Southern Region Symposium - 1998 - Tactical Entries, Personal Watercraft HIN Modification and Alteration, Hyperbaric Chamber Treatments, Investigating Environmental Crimes
- 26th Annual Training Seminar - 1999 - Stress Related Syndrome, Assembly Bill 1151, Boating Under the Influence Mock Trial, Office of Emergency Training Water Rescue Preparedness, Research and Development of IRBs, Personal Watercraft as Rescue Tools, Management of Immersion Injuries and Drowning, Trouble Shooting Outboard Engines, Design Specifications for Rescue/Patrol Boats, Operating Powerboats on High Volume Waters, Rescue Boat Symposium
- Southern Region Symposium - 1999 - USCG Team Coordinating Training
- 27th Annual Training Seminar - 2000 - Hazardous Materials Incidents, Underwater Crime Scene Investigation, Disaster Management/Alaska Airlines Flight 261, Hazardous Devices Recognition, Arson Investigation, Vessel Theft/Fraud Investigation
- Southern Region Symposium - 2000 - Search and Rescue Communications, Update on State Legislation and Initiatives, EMS Response, Inflatable PFDs
- 28th Annual Training Seminar - 2001 - Waterborne Mass Casualties, Waterborne Hazardous Materials Response, Crime Scene Management, BCDC Enforcement Unit, PWC Rescue, Violence in the Marina Workplace, Verbal Judo, Narcotics Labs, Introduction to Customs
- 29th Annual Training Seminar - 2002 - Update from the Department of Boating and Waterways, Obtaining a Coast Guard License, Critical Incident Stress Management, PWC Operations and Training, False Reports of Mayday, Castaic Lake Boating Accident Investigation, Verbal Judo
- 49th Annual Training Seminar - 2022 - Update from the Department of Boating and Waterways, 2021 Bay Guardian Waterborne Anti-Terrorism Exercise Debrief, PRND (Preventative Radiological/Nuclear Detection), Homeland Security Updates, Multi Agency Dive Operation, Boat Accident and BUI Prosecutions, Supporting a Dive Operation, Legislative Updates and Derelict vessel removal, Invasive Species, Awareness and recovery from PTSD, On the Water Operations, Vessel capabilities, Cadaver Dogs, Multi Agency Body Recovery Debrief and ROV/Drone Capabilities.

State Boating Education Cards

California
 Washington
 Pennsylvania
 Montana
 Arizona
 Oregon/Towed Watersports Endorsement
 Idaho
 Iowa

Articles Published

"Lake Powell: Bad Buoys and a Neglected System"

Marine Crimes Today, International Association of Marine Investigators August 2025
"A Chronology of the Rules Through the Collision Avoidance Funnel"
Marine Crimes Today, International Association of Marine Investigators July 2025
"Farwell's Interpretations of Overtaking"
Marine Crimes Today, International Association of Marine Investigators July 2023
"How to be the Best Examiner Possible"
Buoy 13 Autumn Edition 2022, United States Coast Guard Auxiliary District 13
"Getting Clear on Vessel and Boating Accident Reports"
The Beacon Issue 66 Spring 2022, California Boating Safety Officers Association
"Boat Handling Skill Development Tips & Passenger Safety"
Marine Crimes Today, International Association of Marine Investigators December 2021
"Is It Safe to Go Out There?"
The Beacon Issue 65 Fall 2021, California Boating Safety Officers Association
"Is It "All Right" Out There?"
International Association of Marine Investigators July 2012
"California's Court Ordered Boating Education Laws"
US Coast Guard Auxiliary Division 11 Newsletter 2002
"Victim Restitution Fund Available"
The Beacon, California Boating Safety Officers Association January 2001
"Shrinking Shrink Wrap"
The Changing Tide Summer 2001
"Water-Wienies, Aqua-Bats, Air Chairs & Discs"
BBMWD Mtn Waters Dispatch 1999
"Are You still a "Scurvy Bilge Rat?"
BBMWD Mtn Waters Dispatch 1999
"Ramp Rage"
BBMWD Mtn Waters Dispatch 1999
"Are You a "Scurvy Bilge Rat?"
BBMWD Mtn Waters Dispatch 1998
"Designated Skippers, Alcohol & Inflatable PFD's"
BBMWD Mtn Waters Dispatch 1997
"Lake Towing – Tow Like a Pro"
US Coast Guard Auxiliary, The Commodore's Bulletin and Captain's Newsletter April 1997

Professional Affiliations

International Association of Marine Investigators
California Boating Safety Officers Association – Lifetime Member
National Safe Boating Council
United States Coast Guard Auxiliary
National Eagle Scout Association