

## New Check Point Making Boating Safer at Lake Sonoma

by Tom Spencer,  
Sonoma County Deputy Sheriff

Thanks to everyone who participated in the 2006 Labor Day at the Lake Sonoma Visitors Center. Here's a summary of the day's activities from all involved agencies.

Our main benefactor, Lead Ranger Sue Wilson of the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) here at Lake Sonoma, fielded four excellent employees who did all the initial set-up of cones, signs, handout materials and supplied a pre-event briefing place as well as a BBQ lunch later.

Sergeant Ari Wolf of the Sonoma County Auto Theft Task Force (SCATT) fielded four of his best employees and checked the HIN and VIN 80 trailered-in vehicles none of which were found to have been stolen, but dozens of California Vehicle Code violations were cited by deputies on-scene.

Gary Murray of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 55 Sonoma (USCGA) supplied eight outstanding vessel inspectors who volunteered 50 hours and who reported having conducted 78 on-scene vessel inspections.

The USCGA has been very busy here at Lake Sonoma in conducting over 700 Safety Checks, with 522 passing post inspection. Of that number, 564 were first time Safety Checks. The great people of the USCGA have donated over 207 in-uniform hours to making boating safer here at Lake Sonoma this year alone.

Sergeant Pacheco and the three Deputy Sheriff's assigned full-time to the Sonoma County Sheriff's Department Marine Safety and Enforcement Unit (SCSDMSEU), as well as the two SCSDMSEU Alternate deputies, who assisted us in this check point all together

wrote 42 citations for various California Vehicle Code and Harbors and Navigation Code violations during the check point.

New for this check point, we started to inspect and cite violations found with the trailers as well as the boats. Needless to say, numerous problems were discov-

ered and acted upon.

I am considering adding more boating education to the next check point we set up. If you see anything in our operation you would like to see added, deleted or commented upon, please let me know for future considerations.

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Draft	1.0m	(40")
Fuel Capacity	220 U.S. Gallons	
Boat Weight, Light Condition	13,500 lbs. approx	
Payload	6,000 lbs	