

## USPS Boating Skills Virtual Trainer (BSVT) – Key facts

- The **Boating Skills Virtual Trainer (BSVT)** is a USPS training unit funded by a grant by the U.S. Coast Guard. The BSVT is shipped in 3 Pelican cases and features:
  - Three 20” monitors
  - A steering wheel featuring horn and trim tab controls
  - Throttle
  - Buttons on steering wheel to expand the vision field to the left or right for 225 degree visibility
- **Important for setting up the unit at a show: Table lip must not exceed 1.5” and must have a clear lip underneath in order for the clamps to hold properly.**
- The unit has the following exercises built in:
  - Docking
  - Slalom Course
  - Crossing/Overtaking other vessels(both sail and power)
  - Departing dock
  - Spring lines
  - Maneuvering in Fairways
  - Pivot Turn
  - Mooring
  - Emergency Stop
  - Trim control in throttle
  - Night maneuvers with crossing/overtaking lights
  - Controls to change current and wind direction and strength
- The virtual lake is 3 miles x 4 miles and the virtual boat can travel at will all over the lake. Exercises begin at certain points on the lake and are designed to be instructor-led.
- **Next steps:** Grant two funding will pay for seven additional units to be released in 2014 with Generation one functionality. Generation two development is underway to add (1) 360 degree visibility, (2) impact of stern wake from other vessels, (3) multi-lingual, (4) timers, (5) position on the lake, (6) navigation aids for piloting. Gen two units will be debuted at 2015 USPS annual meeting in Jacksonville in January 2015, after which all units in the field will be upgraded to Gen 2.
- **TO RESERVE A UNIT: INTERNAL RESOURCE WEBSITE:** Districts and Squadrons can reserve a unit online at [www.usps.org/php/bsvt](http://www.usps.org/php/bsvt). ONLY online reservations will be accepted. This internal site also has key resources for viewing schedules and calendars, as well as tools which should be downloaded prior to delivery, including (1) a manual for instructors describing the exercises, (2) a manual for assembly/disassembly, (3) 12 minute training tutorial on unit set up, (4) promotional materials including flyer and sticker template, (5) troubleshooting guides
- **EXTERNAL WEBSITE:** Website for external organizations and for viewing videos or getting technical assistance is [www.usps.org/boatingskillsvt](http://www.usps.org/boatingskillsvt).
- **TO PURCHASE A UNIT:** Contact USPS HQ Customer Service who will submit a sales referral to partner Virtual Driver Interactive. Internal cost for USPS/CGA/CPS is \$14,900 plus shipping in temporary boxes. External organizations may purchase a unit for \$18,900 plus shipping. Permanent Pelican shipping cases may be purchased separately for \$1850.

## USPS Boat Safety Virtual Trainer - Partner information



- The **United States Power Squadrons**® are celebrating their 100<sup>th</sup> year in boating education and safety and is the nation's largest recreational boating organization, with 38,000 members in over 400 squadrons throughout the United States . The grant for the BSVT is funded by a grant from the **United States Coast Guard**.
- **Virtual Driver Interactive (VDI)** is a valued partner and the developer of the simulator. They have trained thousands of students and professional drivers on their simulated models and will be working on future developments of the USPS model. The highly sophisticated water physics developed by VDI is first of its kind in the U.S. available for the recreational boater in a cost-effective and transportable unit
- Other supporting partners include **Brunswick Marine, Boston Whaler, Mercury Marine, BoatUS Foundation, National Safe Boating Council, and National Water Safety Congress.**

**For further information or to provide ideas for additional functionality** please contact USPS Project Manager Lisa Herndon at [lisa@herndon.net](mailto:lisa@herndon.net), 404-907-5300.