

# PENNSYLVANIA BOATING ASSOCIATION

## THE VOICE OF BOATING

VOLUME 2 ISSUE NO 8 OCTOBER 2008

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Official newsletter  
of the PBA The  
Voice of Boating is

**Vote postponed** on plan to regulate Delaware River flows. Amid intense public pressure for a postponement, the Delaware River Basin Commission has put off its vote on a controversial plan to regulate Delaware River flows - specifically how much water New York City will be allowed to store in its three Catskill reservoirs. A commission spokesman said the matter might be considered at the December meeting of the five-member panel, comprised of representatives of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York, Delaware and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

**US Power Squadron &** Department of Protective and Regulatory Services (DPRS) Launches new website for kids The DRPS with the help of the USPS has announced the launch of their kid friendly website [www.usps4kids.org](http://www.usps4kids.org)

The site has links to fun and games that re-enforce rules, terminology, techniques and most of all keep you engaged in areas that teach safe boating habits.

**Presque Isle Bay**  
A 54-year-old man lost his life when he was struck by lightning in a 22-foot cabin motorboat. The victim was approaching a slip to get off the water when he was struck. His body was recovered by a scuba team a half hour after the accident.

The accident occurred on Lake Erie (Presque Isle Bay). The victim was not wearing a PFD at the time of this death, though PFD usage is not a factor in this type of accident according to Dan Martin of the Fish and Boat Commission. The three children onboard were all wearing PFDs. The victim was an experienced boater and could swim. It is unknown if he had any formal instruction in boating safety.

#### Lightning Safety

**Lightning Safety Awareness Week** is to help safeguard people from the hazards of lightning and thunderstorms. According to the National Weather Service, lightning is considered an underrated risk because it generally does not cause mass property destruction and may claim one or two victims per incident. A study by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, shows that between 1998 and 2007, Nationwide, 45 people were struck and killed by lightning.

**VOICE FORMAT** The next issue will be a change in the Voice format

1. We will expand the pages for more articles as shown in this issue using three columns.
2. We will provide space for advertising . (typical example page two will have advertising & page three will have articles). The Voice will increase to 12 pages. Opposing pages will have adds.
- 3 . The Voice is the only regional publication that can track each recipient of the publication.
4. Every member of the Pennsylvania Boating Association (PBA) receives

a copy of the Voice in their mail four times a year. The Voice is the number one news publication in Pennsylvania, read by over a thousand boaters.

#### PBA DEMOGRAPHICS \*

- 84 % have safe boating certificates
- 59 % are power boaters
- 40 % are sail-boaters
- 05 % are paddle boaters
- 05 % do not own a boat and 3% of the 5% were considering buying a boat.

\*statistical information obtained from a 2007 survey.

# PENNSYLVANIA BOATING ASSOCIATION VOICE OF BOATING ADVERTISING APPLICATION FOR JANUARY 2009 ISSUE

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# LEGISLATION

## **PENNSYLVANIA Proposed Rulemaking by the Boating Advisory Board (BAB) synopsisized**

Amendment Section 111.17

Curwensville Lake is a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District impoundment of the West Branch of the Susquehanna River in central Clearfield County. It is recommended that boats are limited to slow, no wake speeds in the following areas:

1. Upriver of the cliff at Ferguson .
2. Between the old viaduct pillars.

Proposal that §105.3 (9) be amended as follows: Unacceptable boating practices. It is unlawful to operate a pontoon boat while a person is riding outside the passenger carrying area. The passenger carrying area is defined by continuous railings or enclosed spaces intended for persons to use while the pontoon boat is underway. The prohibition does not apply when the operator of the boat is docking, mooring, anchoring or rafting the pontoon boat [or when the pontoon boat is underway at slow minimum height swell speed or less].

Amendment to Section 91.5 Parental and Boat Owner The Commission's current regulations do not include a provision making it unlawful for a boat owner knowingly to allow someone to operate a boat without a boating safety education certificate onboard when the individual is required to have one. It is unlawful for a parent or guardian of a child 17 years of age or younger knowingly to allow or permit the child to operate [a watercraft] boat in violation of this subpart.

(a) It is unlawful for the owner of a boat knowingly to allow an individual who is required to have a boating safety education certificate to operate the boat without having a boating safety education certificate onboard.

Amendment to Section 95.3 (Lights for Boats).

- (a) Boats less than 12 meters (39 feet 4.4 inches) in length while underway
- (b) A sailboat using sail alone, less than 7 meters (22 feet 11.6 inches) in length or any other unpowered boat if impractical to display lights in may display a single white light in time to prevent a collision.
- (c) [Rowing or paddle boats while underway. One hand held or permanent all around white light shall be ready to display in time to prevent a collision. [d] Boat at anchor. [e] Locations of lights The [all-around] all-round white lights shall be 1 meter (3 feet 3.4 inches) higher than the colored lights.

Amendments to Section 53.8 (Boats) and Section 97.1 (Personal Flotation Devices). §53.8. Boats.

(a) Occupants of sculls, shells and racing kayaks are required to carry or wear Coast Guard approved personal flotation devices.

§97.1. Personal flotation devices. This section does not apply to racing shells, rowing sculls and racing kayaks, such as manually propelled boats recognized by National racing associations for use in competitive racing, where the occupants row, scull or paddle with the exception of the coxswain.

. [Safety boats accompanying the boats shall carry a sufficient number of readily accessible Type I, II, III or V PFDs for the occupants of the shells, sculls or kayaks. This exemption does not apply on Commission and State Park owned or controlled boating waters.]

109.6 Special Marine Events

The Commission will not issue a special activities permit for a marine event [in a State Park] unless the the applicant first obtains written permission [from the Bureau of State Parks, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.] ] The Commission will require evidence that the applicant has the permission of the controlling [agency] entity unless that [agency] entity has delegated approval authority to the Commission.

Amendment to Section 97.3 (Sound Producing Devices).

Sound producing devices.

Unpowered boat operators are required to have some means of making an efficient oral or mechanical sound signal that can be heard by another boat operator in time to avoid a collision.

Addition of Section 111.68

The PFBC's officers would like the ability to utilize PFBC law enforcement procedures to deal with individuals violating motor prohibitions on PGC lakes new §111.68 as follows: The operation of boats powered by internal combustion motors is prohibited on all lakes owned or controlled by the Pennsylvania Game Commission unless posted otherwise.

The aforementioned synopsisized rules will be voted on October 21st at the BAB meeting in Harrisburg

# LEGISLATION

## New OHIO Boating Laws

OH Senate Bill 271 was recently signed into law.“

1.Failure to control” as new boat operator rule. This rule is set to clarify conditions of property damage and injury collision. Specific examples of failure to control are jet boats that lose steerage when throttle is reduced, sailing through congested harbor, and such that cause accidents.

2.Creating a ‘no-wake zone” requiring boat operators to reduce to no wake speed when passing any boat engaged in public service. This includes law enforcement, fireboats, search and rescue, dredges and tow services.

3.Increasing horsepower in Pymatuning Lake in northeastern OH to 20 horsepower. 2/3 of the lake is in Pennsylvania. OH is seeking to clarify confusion about the horsepower issues on the lake. \*

4.Permit boaters to slow to ski tubes and other towables in no-wake zones to create additional recreational opportunities for those physically unable to manage or do not desire the higher speeds.

5.Allow children to under 10 years of age on watercraft under 10 feet in length to wear swimsuit style life jackets.

6.Allows the electronic transfer of titles for outboard motors. It is hoped that this provision will speed up the time to transfer titles by eliminating the need for a watercraft dealer to be the primary issuer of a physical title.

## CLEAN BOATING ACT

President Signs Clean Boating Act  
After long debate, President Bush has signed S.2766. This is also known as the “Clean Boat Act of 2008”. This act permanently restores an exemption for recreational boats from permit procedures necessary to operate in US

Waterways. Known as “common sense” legislation, many groups are to be thanked for their tireless work to ensure the recreational exemption was restored. To view a full copy of the bill, go to [www.govtrack.us](http://www.govtrack.us) and search S. 2766.

## GREAT LAKES

Governor Edward Rendell has signed into H.B. 1705 showing Pennsylvania’s dedication to the protection of the Great Lakes River Basin.

The bill is designed to protect, conserve, improve and restore the resources for the River Basin. Pennsylvania joins Minnesota, Illinois, Indiana, New York, Wisconsin, Ohio and Michigan in approving the agreement.

Great Lakes governors and environmentalists today applauded as the House of Representatives voted 390 to 25 to approve a bill to ensure more sustainable use of the Great Lakes, which contain 90 percent of the fresh surface water in North America.

The Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact has already been passed by the Senate and individually by the legislatures of each of the Great Lakes states.

The congressional action completes a seven-year-long legislative approval process. The resolution now goes to President George W. Bush, who has committed to sign it.

## Government wants saltwater anglers to register, pay fee

Saltwater anglers would need to register with the federal government to go fishing next year, and starting in 2011 pay an annual fee between \$15 and \$25 to be paid to the PA Fish & Boat Commission

The goal of the proposal is to assemble a better database of recreational fishermen so they can be interviewed more thoroughly on what they catch. This information would be used to better manage fisheries.

NOAA surveys are now based on meetings with anglers when they return to the dock and using phone books from coastal areas to cold-call people about their fishing habits.

The only thing everybody seems to agree on is that the existing data collection system is seriously flawed.

NOAA is simply stressing the idea that good data would lead to better management and this would prevent overfishing, which is good for the sport's future.

An outreach effort is planned for later this year that will include getting the message out to those who do not speak English. Anglers would have to register before their first fishing trip in 2009.

## NEW JERSEY

### Maritime museum planned for Camden

Heart of Camden, a nonprofit organization dedicated to neighborhood revitalization purchased the former Episcopalian Church of Our Savior for \$180,000 and is beginning to convert it into a maritime museum to celebrate Camden's long history as an important port city on the Delaware River. With a \$100,000 grant from the city and private donations, Heart of Camden re-roofed the historic stone church, rectory and parish house, saving it just in time from extinction.

Michael Lang, a retired urban studies professor said shipbuilders worshipped in the church that closed its doors after its congregation fled the city.

**Toms River Seaport Society** and Maritime Museum's 31st annual Wooden Boat Festival. The classic lines and magnificence of the antique yachts with their polished wood and brass fixtures highlighted an era long gone when the art of shipbuilding was an honored craft.

This year's featured boat was the 50-foot 1929. Elco Flattop cruiser, the Liberte, which was awarded second place in the Antique Cruiser category. 1929. First place in Antique cruiser class went to the Ariana, a mahogany cabin cruiser circa 1919 owned by Ed and Claire Chicone of Hunterdon County. The yacht is decorated with old world charm that is evidenced by the lace curtains on the windows and elegant décor.

A Special Guest Award went to the Atlas, a 55-foot Trumpy motor yacht.

## PENNSYLVANIA

**Lake Elsinore** officials hope 24 neon-orange life jackets will promote safety on a lake where more than a dozen people have drowned since 2000 -- five during a one-year span. They are taking steps to make the lake one that is user-friendly and safe," said Pat Kilroy, director of Lake and Aquatic Resources. Lake Elsinore recently installed four "life-jacket loaner stations" along a stretch of the lake known as Elm Grove Beach.

### DELAWARE RIVER

The celebration at The Giving Pond in Tinicum marked the 40th anniversary of the passage of the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, which protects and preserves some of the nation's most outstanding waterways. For Richard McNutt, the journey to protect the 330-mile stretch of the Delaware River has been tough, but rewarding. The Pipersville resident helped win passage of the act, which ordered that the river be undammed and unpolluted.

### MONONGAHELA RIVER

The 7th annual Pittsburgh Dragon Boat Races were held at Station Square. The thrilling sport of dragon boat racing has taken off in Pittsburgh, and people of all ages are getting in the action. First time paddlers and internationally recognized teams alike competed on Pittsburgh's peaceful Monongahela River. Local rowing clubs, Steel City Dragons and Three Rivers Rowing Association, were represented at the race as well as teams from across the State.

### The Susquehanna River Water Trail

Middle Section, from Sunbury to Harrisburg, recently joined the prestigious ranks of the National Recreation Trails network. Please join the National Park Service and partners to build public awareness for this recognition and the wonderful recreational opportunities and educational features of the Susquehanna River Water Trail.

### Delaware Valley Boat

**Racing** and Canada Racers compete on the Susquehanna River. The 25 to 30 competitors were viewed by more than 100 people lining the bank of the Susquehanna River at the Sunbury Social Club. The event is sponsored by the Delaware Valley Boat Racing Club. According to racing fans the key to high-speed boat racing, is to get as much of your craft out of the water as possible, so the hull is just skimming the surface. The more air you can get underneath the boat, the better however too much, and the boat will blow over backwards.

### Mass Megawatts

Mass Megawatts Launches Manufacturing Facility in Pennsylvania. Mass Megawatts has chosen to locate a production facility in Pennsylvania because of the State's dedication and leadership in the field of renewable energy, including wind power.

# LAKE ERIE PA FISH & BOAT COMMISSION

**PENNSYLVANIA** Sea Grant receives promotion in federal status. Pennsylvania Sea Grant is administered by Penn State Erie, The Behrend College, and staffs two locations - a Lake Erie Office in the Tom Ridge Environmental Center at Presque Isle State Park and a Delaware Estuary Office in the Delaware County city of Chester. Institutional status designation gives Pennsylvania Sea Grant primary responsibility for statewide oversight of long-term investments consistent with NOAA's national Sea Grant goal of environmental stewardship and responsible resource use.

## **Kayak Trip**

### **Man finishes kayak trip**

A solo kayaker's 1,700-mile journey to promote prostate cancer awareness wrapped up at a Manhattan pier after 54 days, three Great Lakes and a few nerve-racking moments.

Dozens of kayakers and well-wishers greeted Skip Ciccarelli as he finished his final leg of the Hudson River. He had set out from Chicago 54 days before, following a route that took him through three of the Great Lakes and the Erie Canal.

The 60-year-old kayaker encountered six-foot waves and potent thunderstorms along the way, once nearly capsizing, he said. Some days, he paddled more than 40 miles to maintain the schedule he'd planned. He stopped at night.

## **Aquatic invaders**

Over 30 representatives of local, state and federal government agencies and community groups will test their readiness to respond to aquatic invaders in the Great Lakes in a three day exercise in Presque Isle

## **BOATING FACILITIES**

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission has opened its Boating Facilities Grant Program to allow nonprofit land trusts, conservancies and watershed associations to apply for grants. The program previously

allowed only local government entities to apply for the grants, which reimburse recipients for up to 75 percent of the costs for land acquisition, project design and engineering, development, expansion and major rehabilitation of public recreational boat access facilities in Pennsylvania. Eligible activities include the rehabilitation, expansion or construction of new boat ramps, bulkheads, courtesy floats, access roads, parking areas, rest rooms, signs and localized landscaping. Activities must benefit and directly support public recreational boating.

## **10/7/08 Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission**

will review the agency's fiscal year 2009-10 budget request to the Governor's Budget Office. Among the items on the agenda, are four property-related matters to improve public fishing access, including a lease in Chester County and three acquisitions in Erie County. The Commission will also finalize regulations further restricting the sale, introduction and transportation of VHS-susceptible species of fish. Viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS) is an infectious disease found in a variety of fish species.

## **Heave to (stop the vessel)**

Each year over 650 Americans die in boating accidents, most of which are due to operator error. Moreover, boaters all around the world are notoriously careless when it comes to having required safety gear aboard. Marine police – both paid and volunteer – are on the water to make it safer for you and your family, so when you are stopped don't cop an attitude.

Several states have signed compacts with the Coast Guard in this post 9/11 environment, whereas the Coast Guard has delegated some of their Federal powers to the state. Specifically, they now allow state law enforcement Fish & Boat Commission (and those state powers flow down to the local law enforcement officers) to board vessels without having written warrants.

Let's run through the rules if you get pulled over on the water

1. Heave to (stop the vessel)
2. Have all passengers and crew topside
3. Be quiet, courteous, and cooperative
4. Provide all necessary documentation
5. Politely point out your VSC\* sticker. Be safe on the water and wear your personal flotation device (PFD).

\*Vessel Safety Check (VSC)

# NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL NEWS

## USCG

The Coast Guard's Deepwater Program, under the Department of Homeland Security, had experienced performance and management problems. They are addressing these issues through joint efforts with the Navy and the Defense Contract Management Agency. Deepwater is intended to replace or modernize Coast Guard vessels, aircraft, and the communications and electronic systems that link them together. As of fiscal year 2008, over \$4 billion has been appropriated for Deepwater. Coast Guard leadership is making positive changes to its management and acquisition approach to the Deepwater Program that should put it in a position to realize better outcomes.

## 2009 BUDGET

In 2007, the Coast Guard saved more than 5,000 lives, seized \$4.7 billion worth of cocaine at sea, and interdicted about 6,000 migrants attempting to enter the country illegally. The President's budget request for fiscal year 2009, includes \$9.3 billion for the Coast Guard.

## PHILADELPHIA

The Coast Guard rescued two people aboard a 60-foot boat taking on water near the naval ship yard in the Delaware River here. The Coast Guard received a call from a crewman aboard Details, a sport fishing boat, reporting they were taking on water and needed assistance. A rescue boat crew from Coast Guard Station Philadelphia arrived on scene and found the boat had four feet of water aboard. Coast Guard members were able to control the flooding by rigging three dewatering pumps to the boat. The rescue boat crew assisted the Details' crew in mooring up at a dock near the Philadelphia Naval Business Center

## Coast Guard Auxiliary

Crescent City's Coast Guard Auxiliary is poised to make history. With their recent win at the district search and rescue competition held at Coast Guard Island in Alameda they will now advance to the national search and rescue competition to be held Oct. 3 and 4 in Cape May, N.J. Team members Bill Barlow, Thom O'Connor and Alan Porteous competed in events including marine spike, seamanship exam, search and rescue/navigation planning, communications, and the challenging heaving-line competition.

For the national competition, each team must consist of three members. At least one team member must be a currently qualified coxswain and all team members must be currently qualified boat crew members.

## Self-Propelled Semi-Submersible (SPSS) watercraft (Source USCG)

The amount of cocaine moving through the Western Hemisphere Transit Zone (WHTZ) in calendar year 2007 increased from 1,022 metric tons in CY 2006 to 1,421 metric tons in CY 2007. Removals of cocaine loads in transit by interdiction forces increased from 256 metric tons to an all-time record high of 316 metric tons. Sixty-eight percent of the cocaine moving through the transit zone transited the Eastern Pacific in 2007; twenty-one percent passed through the Western Caribbean; ten percent was smuggled through the Central Caribbean and less than one percent was shipped directly to the United States.

Most drugs departing Colombia go by sea -- either "go-fast" boats, fishing vessels, commercial shipping, or the relatively new method of Self-Propelled Semi-Submersible watercraft (SPSS). Typically, in the eastern Pacific, fishing vessels carrying multi-ton loads of cocaine depart Colombian and Ecuadorian Pacific coast ports for delivery points along the Central American or Mexican coast. In the

Caribbean, high-speed "go-fast" vessels, hauling as much as two metric tons of cocaine at a time, leave Colombia's north coast for delivery points in the eastern Caribbean, or hug the Central American coastline in their track north to points along the Central American and Mexican coastlines.

The US Coast Guard, Department of Justice, Department of Homeland Security, Office of National Drug Control Policy strongly support criminalizing this conduct. The Drug Trafficking Interdiction Assistance Act of 2008 built on the work of Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ), and Sen. Biden pledged to continue to work with Sen. Lautenberg to get these measures enacted.

If drug cartels can ship up to ten tons of cocaine in a semi-submersible, they can clearly ship or "rent space" to a terrorist organization for a weapon of mass destruction or a high-profile terrorist

## Pictorial Postmark

Mayville NJ Regatta enthusiasts attending the 3 day event in Mayville's Lakeside Park had a chance to take home a piece of history as the village's post office were hand-canceling envelopes with a commemorative pictorial postmark. The Pictorial Postmarks Program of the U.S. Post Office is a program which allows communities across America a way to commemorate local events.



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**PBA the voice of boating**

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**[ ] NEW MEMBER [ ] RENEWAL**