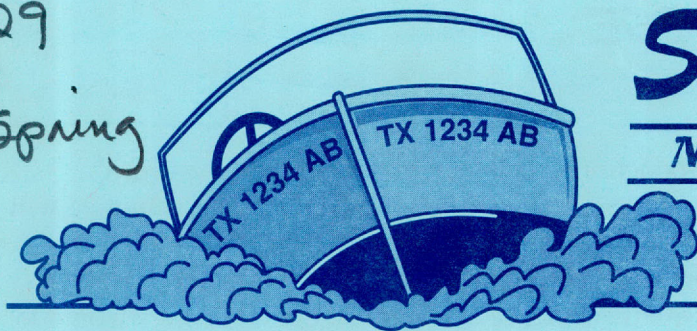


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STAYING AFLOAT

NEWSLETTER



SPRING 1996

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Ship's Log

"Stand-On!"

Have you asked yourself what today's recreational boating climate is like? Texas lakes and waterways are filling up with fishermen, water skiers, personal watercrafts, paddlers and sailors. There has never been such an opportunity and a considerable need for informed boaters as there is today! There has arisen a public outcry for help and information on what to do.

The Boater Education programs offered today can reach a considerably larger number of boaters if we attack the market. Around the state US Power Squadrons, US Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotillas and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Instructors are teaching boaters about safe, responsible boating. However, in Texas, less than five percent of boat users have any type of formal boating education. Ninety-five percent of the boating public are available to be trained.

Any sales person would love to have this opportunity. Not all boaters on the water are bad people, out to cause trouble, but they are simply uninformed. That is where education comes in. Consider your marketing strategy, and yes, that is exactly what it is, a marketing strategy.


We are concerned boaters. The thought of being out on the water in our favorite vessel is rewarding and we have made a commitment to give something back to boating. It is up to us to safeguard the waterways for future generations of boaters in Texas.

- Tim Spice

SAFE BOATING SEMINAR HELD IN CORPUS CHRISTI

The 1996 National Safe Boating Education and Professional Training Seminar was hosted by The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. The Seminar, scheduled for March 10-13, 1996 in Corpus Christi at the Sheraton Bayfront Hotel, was a complete success.

Conference participants that included state education coordinators, boating law administrators, boating industry representatives and concerned boaters took part in activities and presentations. The Seminar addressed boating education and current issues surrounding recreational boating in the United States.



This conference provided Texas Boater Education Instructors with an opportunity of a life time to see what direction safe boating is headed.

Seminar activities included: safe personal watercraft operation, drown proofing techniques, inflatable PFDs, out of water "hands on" teaching techniques, marketing strategies, special needs boaters and more useful information. This conference provided Texas Boater Education Coordinators with an opportunity to see what direction safe boating is headed.

If you are interested in receiving information about the 1996 Seminar:

contact: Tim Spice at 1-512-328-5275
or write: Texas Parks and Wildlife
4200 Smith School Road
Austin, TX 78744
Attention: Boater Education

NOAA CHARTS COULD LOSE IN REORGANIZATION

While additional funding to modernize nautical chart production is included in the House version of the Department of Commerce appropriations bill, it's not in the Senate version and a conference committee will soon decide the final bill. However, other measures in Congress call for everything from dismantling Commerce to farming out charts to other agencies. There is concern with proposals that transfer charting to the U.S. Geological Survey or merge NOAA charting with the Defense Mapping Agency. Boaters would lose out in either plan because civilian charts and items such as small craft charts would become a low priority.

From BOAT/US

NEW HOME STUDY BOATING SAFETY COURSE AVAILABLE

By Kurt Kalkomey

BOAT TEXAS -- A Home Study Guide To Responsible Boating is a new home study boating safety course developed by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the Lower Colorado River Authority, and BOATCLUB, Inc. The course includes a video that offers an illustrative and entertaining overview of boating procedures and an instruction manual on boating laws and regulations for operating boats in Texas. The manual also offers chapter review exercises and includes a home study test for State certification from the Department. Safety certification makes boaters eligible for significant boat insurance discounts from most major insurance providers.

The course was developed as an alternative to the classroom instruction offered by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and the U. S. Power Squadron, for those boaters who

find it difficult to attend a classroom course. According to a Texas A & M Survey, only 7 percent of Texas boat owners have taken any form of boating safety instruction. That's why the Department and its **BOAT TEXAS** partners decided to develop a home study course.

The course is targeted to the 16 to 24 foot boat owner who boats on Texas' lakes and bays. It covers the rules of the waterways and serves as a guide on how to be a responsible Texas boater. Many long time boaters who have completed **BOAT TEXAS** have said that they never would have guessed they still had so much to learn about boating.

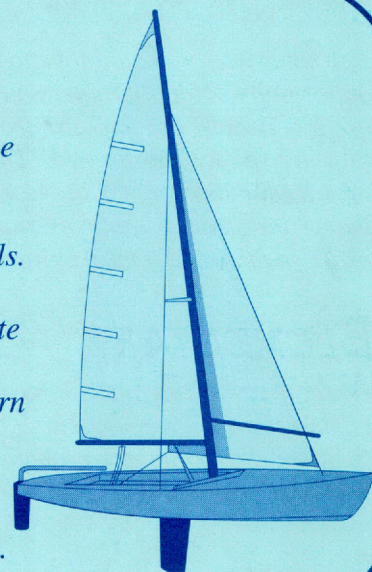
The cost of the **BOAT TEXAS** course is \$24.95 plus tax and is available at many local marine dealers across Texas. It is also available by calling 1-800-460-9698 and ordering it over the phone.

TEACHING TIPS

Brock Minton, Area Chief in San Angelo, uses a five gallon bucket filled with ice water and a dime to show the effects of hypothermia. Place the dime in the bucket of ice water. Have the student keep their hand submerged for thirty seconds then try to slide the dime up the side of the bucket by using their fingernail. This exercise shows how heat loss affects simple motor skills.

Jack Dyess, Instructor in Dallas, teaches sailing and is going to incorporate the "Texas Boater Education Course" in his classes. As an introduction to the class, students are taken on a 33-foot sailboat and make a 180 degree turn at the Lynn Creek Marina in a space that measures only 35 feet. It is a motivating maneuver. It is also the final exam for the students!

Take your class to the boat ramp. There is always real life drama to explore.

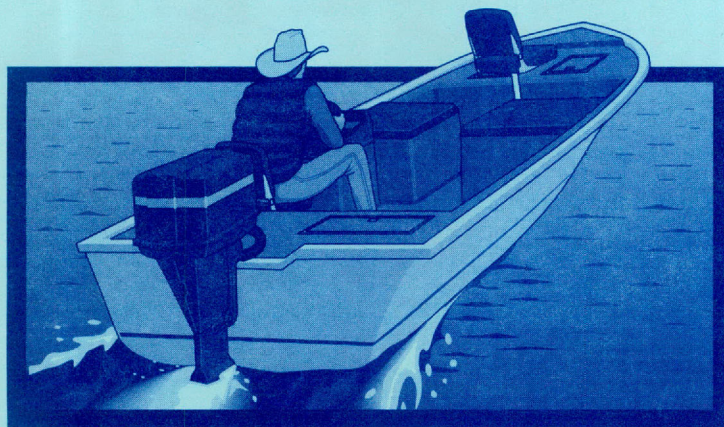


WHAT'S NEW

The pamphlet *Commandments of Boating Safety* has a new look and is almost ready for printing. It will be called *Responsible Boating*. It is easier to read and has new graphics.

Other educational pamphlets are getting a face lift also. Look for the Texas Boater Education Program pamphlet this Spring.

ON THE HORIZON



TEXAS WADE (WATER ACTIVITY DAY EXPERIENCE)

At the conclusion of this summer there will be available a Youth Day Camp Water Safety Program and manual. Houston Safe Boating Council, Houston Police Marine Patrol, and Texas Parks and Wildlife are developing a pilot program to give youth experiences with different types of water activities while learning Water Safety. The program uses volunteer instructors with knowledge in various types of watercraft to work with youth between 12 and 17 years of age. The participants will get hands-on experiences. The profits from the event will be used by the Houston Safe Boating Council to further boating safety. The Lower Colorado River Authority is also developing a program for the Austin Area.

ELEMENTARY WATER SAFETY PROGRAM

There is no comprehensive Water Safety Program in our public schools for elementary-age youth. TPWD is researching the possibility of just such a program. If things work out in time, an effort to acquire funds for this will start in the Fall of 1996, with production slated for mid-1997.

Abaft The Beam With The BLA

My first order is to introduce myself and offer my assistance to anyone reading this newsletter. My name is Carlos Vaca and I am the Boating Law Administrator (BLA) for the state. I am also a game warden with the rank of Assistant Commander and I have 23 years of service with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. I have been the BLA since October of 1993 and I have enjoyed just about every minute of my tenure as the BLA.

I will be the first to admit that I am slanted toward law enforcement and my main focus will always be law enforcement. This is evidenced by the fact that I have been appointed Chairman of the Law Enforcement and Uniform Boating Laws Committee of the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators, NASBLA. Director of the United States Department of Transportation, Federico Pena, appointed me to the National Boating Safety Advisory Council. In some future article I will attempt to give an overview of some of the different organizations involved in recreational boating safety.

"Recreational boating continues to grow at an accelerated pace with the availability of new public water virtually at a standstill."

Even though I am law enforcement oriented, do not think for one minute that I do not recognize the importance of education (i.e. safe boating education). Recreational boating continues to grow at an accelerated pace with the availability of new public water virtually at a standstill. With these known facts, the state's safe boating instructors will accept the challenge and do the best job possible for the common cause of saving lives by reducing boating fatalities and accidents on the waters of this state. I encourage all instructors to continue with their boating education agendas and not to get discouraged by all the negative factors associated with recreational boating safety.

I would like to thank the state's safe boating instructors and, in many cases, their families for giving their time for a worthy cause. I would suggest that each instructor contact their local game warden and get to know him/her. The game warden can assist you with your classes by providing a law enforcement perspective during your course.

Once again, thank you for your efforts.

- Carlos Vaca

STAYING AFLOAT

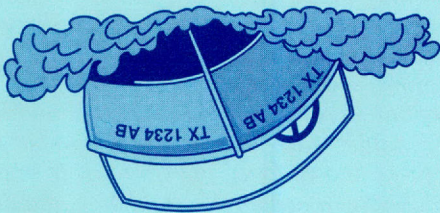
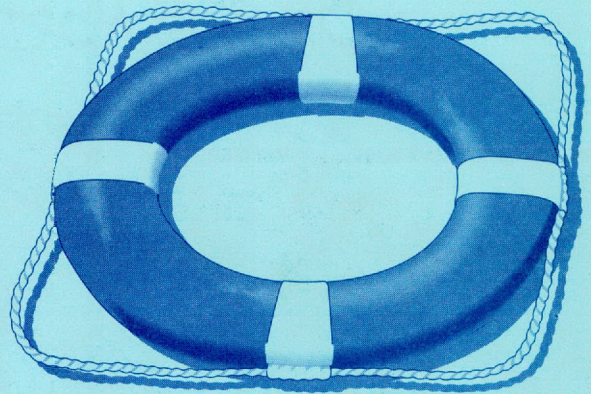
NEWSLETTER

TEXAS
PARKS &
WILDLIFE

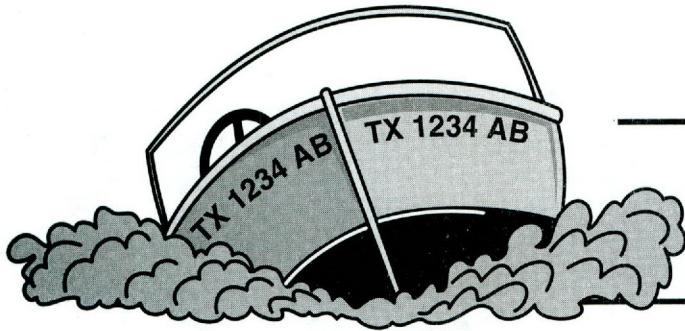
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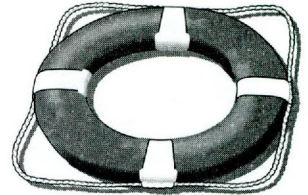


TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT
4200 SMITH SCHOOL ROAD
AUSTIN, TX 78744



STAYING AFLOAT

AHOY!



We need your scheduled classes

PHONE (512) 328-5275
(800) 792-1112 ext. 63

FAX (512) 328-5632
Texas Parks and Wildlife
4200 Smith School Road
Austin, TX 78744

SEND US:

1. *Date*
2. *Time*
3. *Place*
4. *Certified Instructor's Name and Address*
5. *Instructor's Phone Number*

