

P400.6
ST29
97/spring

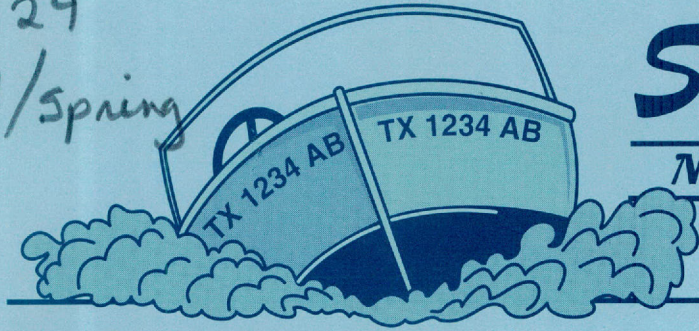
STAYING AFLOAT

Government Publications
Texas State Documents

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 1997 JUL 01 1997

Depository
Dallas Public Library



Ship's Log

Hoist The Main Sail

The Boater Education program in Texas has certified around 3,000 students annually over the past 10 years. There were close to 6,000 certified students in 1996. Sounds like a nice increase, doesn't it?

Let's look at some numbers.

- There are 2.1 million boaters in Texas (conservative figure).
- 7.9% of population in Texas are between the ages of 13 and 16.
- There are approximately 1 million licensed hunters in Texas.
- The TPW Hunter Education program certifies around 30,000 students annually.

What does all of this mean?

If the **proposed** legislation is ratified, mandatory boater education could be required for boaters between the ages of 13 and 16. The historical data from Hunter Education demonstrates 3% of that recreational user will participate. In boater education, **60,000** annual student certifications are possible. Even if 1.5% participate there will be **30,000** annual student certifications.

Consider the impact to boating safety classes as they are currently conducted. There are not enough classes offered and active instructors to handle the increase in demand. Take a moment to recruit instructors and consider offering monthly scheduled classes. Providing these classes will make the boating experience an enjoyable one for more Texas Boaters.

Tim Spice

NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK

National safe boating week kicks off May 17th. This National campaign is designed to get safe boating on the minds of the boating public. It is a grass roots volunteer effort that has considerable support from the U.S. Coast Guard. In order for NSBW to be affective, Safe Boating proponents must get involved in their respective communities. This is the perfect time to show your community how easy it is to be safe and enjoy the wonderful Texas aquatic environment. This year's campaign slogan is "Life Jackets, They Float You Don't."

YOU ASK, "WHAT CAN I DO?"



1. Publicize and hold a boating class.
2. Send out a news release.
3. Solicit a free Billboard.
4. Do a youth program with media presence.
5. Hold a local news confrence.
6. Do a boating parade.
7. Wear a PFD.
8. Hold a PWC awareness program.
9. Hand out materials at the boat ramp or marina.
10. Put up a new boat ramp sign.
11. Organize a Safe Boating Council in your community.
12. Recruit a Safe Boating Instructor
13. Schedule one safe boating class per month for 1997.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO TO



PROMOTE SAFE BOATING WEEK?

BOAT/U.S. On-line Boating Safety Course

As part of the proposed legislation a challenge course must be made available for Texas boaters. BOAT/U.S. has a NASBLA approved on-line course that TPW is looking at. This educational tool on the Internet will provide even more access to boating safety. Each question gives responses explaining why answers are correct/ incorrect. In the event the questions answer is chosen incorrect, the course identifies the correct response to the question. Each time a student registers, the questions will be randomly selected from a large question database. TPW is working with BOAT/U.S. to provide on-line registration with TPW for faster service. You may look up the course at www.boatus.com.

National Transportation Safety Board Personal Watercraft (PWC) Study

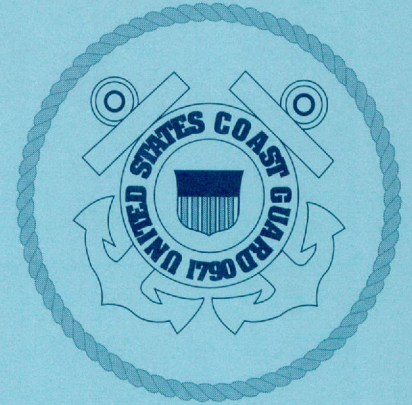
Currently there are a lot of incomplete statistics and information about PWCs and their safety. One consideration not included in current statistics is the hours of use compared to other boats. We have all heard that PWCs represent 10% of the registered boats and are involved in 30% of the accidents, but what is the difference in hours and times of use? Some information sources say that there are between 5 to 7 operators per registered PWC, in comparison there are 2.5 operators per registered boat.

The NTSB is conducting an in-depth study to help answer these questions. Results should be available in the fall of '97.

MANUFACTURER'S IDENTIFICATION CODE

The first three characters in the HIN are the manufacturer's ID Code. The only way to obtain a Manufacturer's ID Code

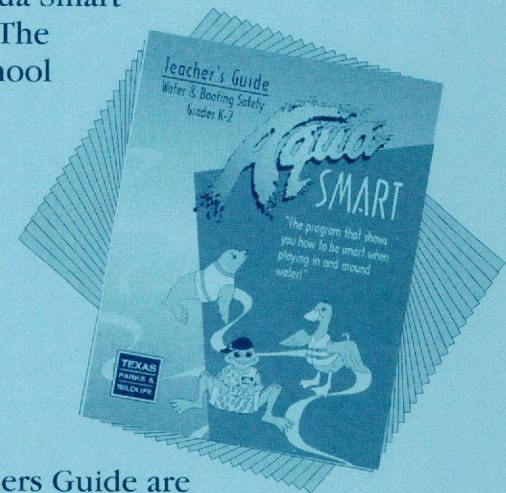
is to request one from the Coast Guard. The Coast Guard will issue a manufacturer's ID Code to only US builders of recreational boats and to US importers of foreign-built boats.



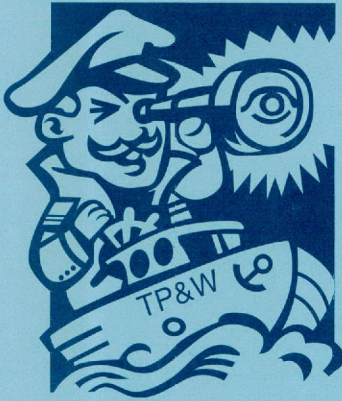
Aqua Smart Update

In a past issue Aqua Smart was introduced. The need for an in-school water safety program is evident. Non-boating related drownings out number boating-related drownings nearly 6 to 1 in Texas.

The first drafts of Aqua Smart Teachers Guide are done, and the project's first phase (K-2, 3-5) should be available this fall.



Boater Education Area Chiefs needed!

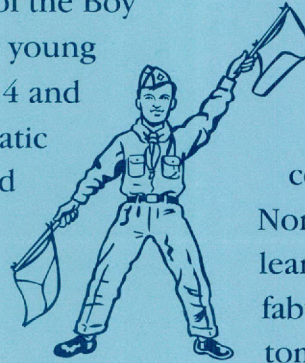


There is a shortage of instructor trainers or Area Chiefs as we know them. The Boater Education Program is growing, and with the possibility of mandatory education, more certified instructors will be needed. It is possible that four times as many active instructors will be needed to handle the demand for Boater Education Certification. There are prerequisites to becoming an Area Chief. If you are interested please give me a call. (Tim Spice)

Boater Education the Boy Scout Way

What is a Ship? A local group of young people that are part of the Exploring Division of the Boy Scouts of America. Sea Exploring is for young men and women between the ages of 14 and 20 with an interest in all aspects of aquatic activities, as well as camping, hiking and community service. Programs are designed and conducted by the young adults with a focus on their social and career interests. Like all other Boy Scout groups, Sea Explorers are sponsored by local churches and community groups. Sea

Explorers are active in most parts of the state.



Congratulations to Ship 24 in Houston. They have completed the make-over of the "Jolly Roger." These young adults converted a 21- man lifeboat built in Norway into a schooner. What an excellent learning experience with many hours of fabulous sailing awaiting these leaders of tomorrow. For information about Sea Explorers, contact your local Boy Scout Council.

Communication

Information and materials are of utmost importance.
To better serve you remember two important numbers:

- #1 Boater Education Coordinator --- 512-389-8141
- #2 Materials and Supplies ----- 512-389-4795

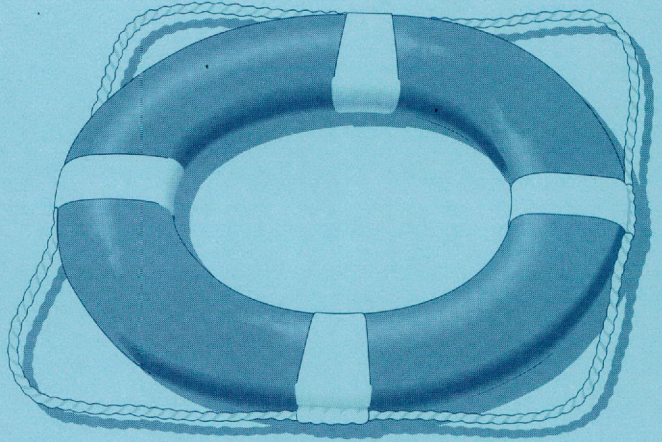
or

- #1 Boater Education Coordinator -- 800-792-1112+0
ASK FOR Tim Spice, EXT. 8141 please
- #2 Materials and supplies ----- 800-792-1112+61
- #3 E-mail tim.spice@tpwd.state.tx.us

STAYING AFLOAT

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 1997



PWD BR D2200-142 (4/97)

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

