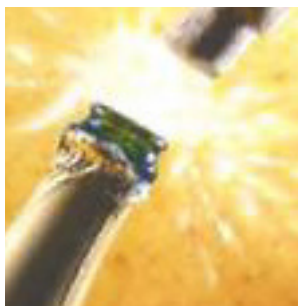




NAUTICAL NOTES

JANUARY 2007

NEW YEAR'S GREETING



There is nothing more uplifting than focusing on the new year ahead. 2008 marks a fresh start, a chance for new beginnings and new resolutions.

Nautical Notes begins 2008 by getting a jump start on the boating season and highlighting several upcoming boat shows, including Baltimore's largest and oldest. If you're in the market for a new boat, but not sure what type best suits you and your family, we pose several questions you might want to consider before you buy.

For those of you planning to get back on the water soon, please consider our very important safety tips involving Carbon Monoxide gas, which can be dangerous both inside the hull and on deck. In this issue we also take a look at a new legislative ruling that, if not overturned, will cost recreational boaters additional fees and paperwork.

From the entire crew at NBOA, we wish you a happy new year and hope you enjoy the latest and greatest from *Nautical Notes*!

NBOA EVENTS

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| Jan. 3 - 6 | San Diego Boat Show
San Diego, CA
www.sandiegoboatshow.com |
| Jan. 9 - 13 | Atlanta Boat Show
Atlanta, GA
www.atlantaboatshow.com |
| Jan. 11 - 20 | Cleveland Boat Show
Cleveland, OH
www.clevelandboatshow.com |
| Jan. 12 - 20 | New England Boat Show
Boston, MA
www.naexpo.com |
| Jan. 23 - 27 | Minneapolis Boat Show
Minneapolis, MN
www.minneapolisboatshow.com |
| Jan. 23 - 27 | Baltimore Boat Show
Baltimore, MD
www.baltimoreboatshow.com |
| Jan. 25 - 27 | Charleston Boat Show
North Charleston, SC
www.thecharlestonboatshow.com |
| Jan. 26
- Feb. 3 | Louisville Sport Boat & RV Show
Louisville, KY
www.louisvilleboatshow.com |



GET A JUMP START ON THE SEASON

The all-new Baltimore Boat Show held at the Baltimore Convention Center from Jan. 23-27, celebrates its 54th anniversary by increasing exhibit space and adding new features. More than 600 new boats will be featured at the city's largest and oldest show, as well as booths showcasing the latest cutting-edge marine equipment, electronics, gear, and accessories. SailFest, a new 50,000 sq. ft. all-sailing showcase, will feature the latest and best from the sailing world. To see what the future has in store for the marine world, visit the new Accessory Center. Also, the fishing section will include the newest boats, gear, and accessories you need to land the big one!

Special attractions are scheduled daily, such as the "Fishing for Laughs" comedy show, a power boat docking challenge, and Fetch-n-Fish tank demos. You can even get tips from the pros at the many fishing, boating, and sailing seminars. If you're in the market for a new boat, the five day event is the best time to buy, offering you a rare chance to compare makes and models, secure insurance and financing, and gear up with the latest accessories all under one roof.

Whether you're new to the boating world, or an experienced captain, the Baltimore Boat Show has something for you. For more information, visit www.baltimoreboatshow.com.



BOATING ACT IN LIMBO

The Recreational Boating Act of 2007 has yet to be enacted and time is running out, which could mean extra costs and headaches for boaters. Earlier in September, a California District Court Judge ruled in favor of a complaint stating ballast water discharged from oceangoing vessels caused the spread of environmentally damaging living organisms (like zebra mussels). The problem is: the ruling made no distinction between recreational and commercial vessels; therefore all types of vessels would be subject to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) permit system.

The Recreational Boating Act of 2007 would extend the 34 year exemption recreational boaters had from EPA

regulation, saving recreational boaters the cost of the permit (an estimated \$20 to \$100 per year), associated paperwork, and the cost of modifications to existing or new boats.

The act preserves the status quo for recreational boaters, saying the water running off of or out of a properly-functioning recreational vessel will not be considered a pollutant.

If the Recreational Boating Act is not allowed to pass and the present ruling stands, new regulations will take effect September 30, 2008.



NIBOA Safety Tip

It has been well documented that carbon monoxide can be harmful or even fatal when allowed to accumulate inside your home. But did you know the same could apply to your watercraft, inside and outside the hull? Check out these safety tips to keep CO from harming you or your passengers.



First, some quick facts about Carbon Monoxide (CO) while boating:

- CO is a tasteless, odorless, invisible gas that forms when carbon-based fuel (gasoline, propane, charcoal, or oil) is burned, usually from engines, gas generators, cooking ranges, and space and water heaters.
- CO symptoms are similar to seasickness or alcohol intoxication.
- CO can affect you whether you're moored, underway, or anchored.
- CO can make you sick in seconds, and even a few concentrated breaths can prove fatal.

Because it is impossible to detect with our senses, CO can accumulate in the vessel through a number of avenues. Also, because the effects usually feel like seasickness or alcohol intoxication, it can go undetected until it's too late. Here are several ways CO can enter your vessel:

- Inadequately ventilated canvas enclosures
- Blocked exhaust outlets

- Exhaust gas trapped in enclosed spaces
- A neighboring vessel's exhaust
- Back drafting from your vessel's engine
- At slow speeds while idling or stopped

How to protect yourself and others from the dangers of CO:

- Know how CO can accumulate in and around your boat.
- Maintain fresh air circulation throughout your boat at all times.
- Run exhaust blowers at all times when generator is running.
- Never sit, teak surf, or hang off the back of the boat while the engine is running.
- If you smell exhaust fumes, CO is also present. Take action to dissipate the fumes immediately.
- Install and maintain CO alarms inside your boat.
- Get a Vessel Safety Check (a free safety evaluation)

Each time you enter the boat, you should take several precautions to keep you and your passengers safe from CO:

- Make sure you know where CO exhaust outlets are located.
- Educate all passengers about the symptoms of CO poisoning and where gas may accumulate.
- When docked or rafted with another boat, be aware of exhaust emissions from neighboring boats.

Confirm that water flows from the exhaust outlet when the engines and generator are started.

- Listen for any change in exhaust sound, which could indicate an exhaust component failure.
- Test the operation of each CO alarm by pressing the test button.

Also, remember to have a qualified marine technician inspect your boat for any potential CO leaks or places where the gas might accumulate. If you make these small steps to insure the safety of everyone on board, you can enjoy your time on the water safely.

BUYING THE RIGHT BOAT

If you've ever given in to your daydreams and bought that shiny new coupe - only to realize it's equipped with everything but space for your kids' car seats - you know the importance of buying the right vessel for your lifestyle. Before you buy a boat, consider a few questions that will help you choose the perfect vessel for you and your family:

- Who will use the boat? Just family or will you invite friends? This may have a bearing on the size.
- How will you use the boat? Will you be fishing, water skiing, cruising, taking day trips, weekend trips or week long excursions?
- When, and how often, will the boat be used? Do you boat year-round or only seasonally?
- Where will you operate the boat? In lakes, rivers, or on the ocean?
- How much can you afford to spend? Don't forget the initial cost of purchase is just the beginning. There will be maintenance, insurance, registration fees, and storage fees.
- What type of boat suits your personality and temperament? Do you imagine getting from place to place with great speed or leisurely sailing to your destination?

TOP 10 BOATER RESOLUTIONS

10. Take a boating course
9. Read my owner's manual
8. Buy new equipment or gear
7. Teach my kids to ski
6. Have cost guard inspect my boat
5. Get my boat professionally cleaned
4. Go on a destination cruise
3. Have more patience with boat ramp congestion (no more ramp rage)
2. Upgrade to a bigger boat
1. Get out on the water more often

NBOA NEWS

Announcing the NBOA Marine Insurance and Sea Ray Owner's Club exclusive partnership! Beginning January 2008 NBOA is Sea Ray's preferred insurance provider. As a long time affiliate of Sea Ray Owner's Club and sponsor of Sea Ray events, we look forward to working closely with Sea Ray and providing their boaters with our superior services! For more information on the new partnership, [click here](#).