

Nebraska Law

- Effective January 1, 2012, no person born after December 31, 1985, shall operate a motorboat or personal watercraft on the waters of this state unless he or she has successfully completed a boating safety course approved by the commission and has been issued a valid boating certificate. This includes the operators of Personal Watercraft (PWC) Classes are offered through the state. The course is six hours long with a proctored exam and you must have 75% to pass. Check the boating web site www.outdoornebraska.org/boating for class schedules or check with any District Office. We only accept an out of state certification for non-residents, Nebraska residents must take the Nebraska course. Responsibility lies with the operator.
- Certificate of number/registration must be available on the vessel for law enforcement inspection at any time.
- Boats manufactured in 1972 or later must be titled before they can be registered in Nebraska.
- Speeds in excess of 5 mph are illegal at all times within 30 yards of any vessel, marina, landing and fishing piers, anchorages or bathing beach
- The most common examples of reckless boat operation for which a ticket can be written are. Operating under the influence - .08 percent or greater blood alcohol content (BAC); riding on the boat's bow, seat-backs, or gunwales; overloading; PWC operator facing backward.
- All persons under 13 must wear a lifejacket.

Iowa Law

- Persons under 12 years of age may operate a vessel propelled by a motor of more than 10 horsepower, including a personal watercraft, only if he or she is accompanied on board by a responsible person at least 18 years old and experienced operating the vessel.
- Persons 12 years of age or older but younger than 18 years of age may operate a vessel propelled by a motor of more than 10 horsepower, including a personal watercraft, only if he or she: Has successfully completed a boater education course approved by the Iowa Dept of Natural Resources or is accompanied on board by a responsible person at least 18 years old and experienced operating the vessel.
- All persons under 13 must wear a life jacket

NOTE: These are not all of the Nebraska or Iowa regulations. See the appropriate state guide for a complete listing.

Classes for Boaters Who Have Demanding Schedules

All courses offered by the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary are NASBLA approved. The boating classes available from the Coast Guard Auxiliary are designed for the recreational boater, fisherman, waterfowl hunters, and personal watercraft operator.

State of Nebraska Boating Course is a 6 to 7 hour course designed to meet the basic needs of operating a motorboat or personal watercraft. The information includes boat styles, legal requirements, navigation rules, trailering, accidents, weather and personal watercrafts.

Boating Skills and Seamanship Course is a 20-25 hour course which is more detailed information for the boater. The information includes equipment for your boat, legal requirements, trailering, navigation rules, powering your boat, lines and knots, boat handling, weather, boat radios, coastal navigation and inland waters.

Photo taken by Jill Reiss



Brochure designed by Pauline Longnecker



Classes That Are Presently Scheduled

2011 Boating Classes

Cost \$10 (schedule as of 6/18/2011)

Nebraska Game and Parks Building
4817 North 56 St., Lincoln
Monday, June 20 & Wednesday, June 22
6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Students must attend both sessions.

Bring snack & drink.

Contact Mary Poe 402-540-3113

Valley Marine

6301 Twin Rivers Road, Valley

Wednesday, June 29

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Bring a sack lunch

Contact Richard Goble 402-397-2916

Carter Lake Public Library (IA and NE class)

1120 Willow Dr.

Carter Lake, IA 51510

Saturday, July 16

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (working lunch)

Bring a sack lunch. Total class limit: 25

Students

Contact Annette Rasmussen 402-727-4108

Iowa Western Community College (Iowa class)

Looft Hall

2700 College Road; Council Bluffs, Iowa

Monday, October 10 & Wednesday, October 12

6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Students must attend both sessions.

Fee payable to IA DNR

To register, call IWCC 712-325-3255

20 10 Nebraska Reporting Boating Accident Stats

- 27 boating accidents, 6 fatalities.
- 19 damaged boats; 21 injuries.
- None of the six victims were wearing life jackets.
- Alcohol was involved in two of the fatalities.

20 10 Iowa Reporting Boating Accident Stats

- 54 boating accidents; 5 fatalities
- 35 property damage; 14 personal injuries.
- Of the 54 incidents, 18% involved alcohol.
- Of the five fatalities, three of them involved alcohol.

For further information about boating classes,
contact

sope@uscgaux08533.info.

For further information about a free vessel safety
exam, contact sove@uscgaux08533.info.

Did you know.....

Nebraska ranks 38th nationally in total boat registrations. In 1997 there were 72,333 boats registered in Nebraska.. In 2007 there were over 84,000, with a gradual steady increase each year. Boating and resources have not increased at the same rate. Boater behavior has changed noticeably since the increase of Personal Watercraft (PWC) registrations. PWC registrations increased from 6,418 in 1997 to an estimated 9,300 in 2001. In Nebraska the PWC registrations make up about 12% of the total boat registration.

Improving boater behavior is what the State Boating Education Program is all about. Our program is more than just about boat and personal watercraft handling. It's management of our resources, boater ethics, and respect for the people whom boaters share the resources.