



SBPOA Marine News

Spring is just about upon us! Those of us with watercraft will soon start thinking about launching our craft and the fun ahead. In preparation for this celebrated event there are a few pre-season tips and some important information that a few of our experienced boaters have offered to share.

1. All boaters born after Jan 1, 1978 are required to have completed a Delaware Safe Boating Course and to carry the Certification Card when operating a motorized boat. (this includes personal watercraft). Now is the time to bring this to the attention of your younger family members. There are 3 ways to accomplish this:
 - a. Delaware on-line courses (www.boat-ed.com) and (www.boaterexam.com) are examples.
 - b. Boat US on-line course (<https://courses.boatus.org/>) Free
 - c. Attend a USCG Auxiliary taught course in person (April 22 - Gull's Way Campground, Dagsboro: Newly scheduled and available) \$10.00
2. Now is also a good time to inventory your safety equipment against USCG regulations. Required items for your watercraft can be found at www.uscgboating.org.
 - a. Changes have been made to the age of fire extinguishers. Check age.
 - b. Many boats lack a throwable floatation device available near the helm/operator. A ring or cushion will do.
 - c. Personal watercraft operators need to have a whistle or other noise making device.
 - d. As of last year, any motorized craft so equipped with a "kill switch" device must have it attached to their person while underway.
3. South Bethany is blessed to have Flotilla 12-1 of the USCG Auxiliary headquartered here. A representative will be at the SBPOA SUMMER KICKOFF PARTY on Saturday, June 10. They will have a sign up for complimentary boat inspections either by appointment or on a date TBD . Stay tuned for times and location. More information about our Flotilla is at (<http://wow.uscgaux.info/cont.php?unit=053-12-01>)
4. We'll cover rules for paddleboards and kayaks meeting motorboats next month.

Looking forward to a great season on the water!!

Submitted by:
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