

Eco-Tip for 12/3/17

Boater Cards Required by Next Month; Boating Green Required Always

By David Goldstein, Ventura County PWA, IWMD

Starting January 1, 2018, many boaters in California will be required to have a California Boater Card. The requirement, phased in by age category, applies to operation of any motorized vessel on state waterways, so this includes powered sailboats, but not conventional kayaks, for example.

The first group required to obtain the California Boater Card are recreational boaters 20 years of age and younger. Each year, a new age group will be included in the requirement. By 2025, all persons who operate a motorized vessel on California waters will be required to have a card. The card, issued by the California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways indicates a boater has taken a class and passed an approved safety education examination.

Courses may be taken in a classroom or online. The current list of approved courses can be found at <http://californiaboatercard.com/courses/>. The cost of the card will be \$10, and all the money goes toward developing and operating the program. Cards do not expire, distinguishing them from a license.

The boater education course covers not just safety for the boater, but also safety for the environment. One key element of the educational program informs boaters about pump-out stations. As stated on the web site of the California Division of Boating and Waterways, "Pollutants that may be associated with boating activities include sewage, oil and fuel, detergents, solvents, paints, plastics and other marine debris. Given the large number of recreational boats in the state, even a small amount of pollution from a fraction of the boats can cause serious harm to marine fish and wildlife."

"Our playground, their world" is a phrase often used to describe concern about pollution from recreational boating.

You can learn more about proper sewage management by visiting http://dbw.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=29209. In addition, you can download a free App available in Google Play or the App Store called the "Pumpout Nav." This App will help you to find the closest operational sewage Pumpout Station for your boat, learn how to use the pumpout to empty your holding tank, and report non-functional units.

In Ventura County, pump out locations for the Channel Islands Harbor and Ventura Harbor are all free and can be seen at http://www.dbw.ca.gov/?page_id=28771#Ventura

An additional pump out station, at Sea Bridge Harbor, is also free.

For the Channel Islands Harbor, pump out facilities are located at both of the guest docks and are maintained by the County of Ventura.

For more information:

<http://californiaboatercard.com/>

Notes

The SAVE program combines the Abandoned Watercraft Abatement Fund (AWAF) and the Vessel Turn-In Program (VTIP) grants into one, allowing local public agencies the convenience of only one grant to apply for and manage, and the flexibility to use the funds for both purposes as needed.

EFFECTIVE AS OF JANUARY 1, 2016, only the SAVE will be available to public agencies interested in receiving an AWAF and/or VTIP Grant. The SAVE is a competitive grant. Agencies are required to participate in both services under the SAVE.

The AWAF and VTIP are grant programs designed to remove, reduce and prevent abandoned **recreational** vessels and marine debris. Administered by the California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW), grants are awarded annually to qualified local public agencies statewide. The AWAF and VTIP, enacted in 1998 and 2010 respectively, have provided millions of dollars in grants, and have enabled the removal of thousands of vessels and marine debris.

From: Matuk, Vivian@Coastal [mailto:Vivian.Matuk@coastal.ca.gov]

Sent: Monday, November 06, 2017 9:45 AM

Subject: SAVE THE DATE - Free educational meeting - Boating topics that matter to you! Join us December 6th for a California Clean Boating Network meeting.

Importance: High

Dear Boating Partners:

Join us on **Wednesday, December 6th** for a **FREE California Clean Boating Network** meeting from **9:15 a.m. to approx. 1 p.m.** at **Vallejo Yacht Club**.

Address: 485 Mare Island Way, Vallejo, CA 94590 (Thanks to the club, its Board, Commodore (Bob Lockhart) and Club Managers (Matthew J. Ceryes and Jennifer Scott)).

Parking: Free!

Map: <https://goo.gl/maps/ruH9FKH5ZRM2>

We hope for your enthusiastic participation and offer plenty of time to ask questions of the experts. Topics will include:

- An update on the **Statewide Clean Boating Program Vivian Matuk** (*CA State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways and CA Coastal Commission*). Learn about some of the program accomplishments and opportunities to partner with this program in 2018.
- **Now here! The California Boater Card. Evan Becker** (*CA State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways*) will be providing an overview and update on the new California Boater Card (CBC) program that goes into effect on January 1, 2018. In this presentation you will learn about when boaters will need to have a CBC, who is required to have a card, how the program will be phased in, who will be exempt, among other important information. Attendees will also learn the steps they need to take to apply for their Boater Card **with a live demo**.
- **The New Pumpout Nav and the California Pumpout report. James Muller, Adrien Baudrimont and Natasha Dunn** (San Francisco Estuary Partnership) will be presenting on a newly developed mobile app for boaters, Pumpout Nav, and the recently released California Pumpout Report. Pumpout Nav allows boaters to find pumpouts close to them, report non-functioning units, and access clean boating information. Pumpout Nav also offers marinas the opportunity to help monitor their pumpouts. This app is now available in California and the team at SFEP will be working with states around the nation next year to make this home grown tool available to a larger audience. The California Pumpout Report is a look at the results of statewide pumpout monitoring efforts. How is Northern California doing? Stick around and find out!
- **Learn about the Surrendered and Abandon Vessel Exchange (SAVE) Program (Ron Kent**, CA State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways) will be providing an overview and update on the Surrendered and Abandon Vessel Exchange (SAVE). This presentation will explain how public agencies as well as the public can benefit from the SAVE Program, and how this helpful grant program can work in your community.

You must RSVP

Even though some of you will not be able to attend, I decided to keep you informed.

Vivian Matuk

Environmental Boating Program Coordinator

California State Parks Division of Boating & Waterways
California Coastal Commission
Ph: (415) 904-6905 Fax: (415) 904-5216
45 Fremont Street, Suite 1900 San Francisco, CA 94105

www.BoatingCleanandGreen.com (check our new clean boating videos under "DBW TV" or in YouTube)

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Every Californian should conserve water. Find out how at:



SaveOurWater.com · Drought.CA.gov

More information:

<http://californiaboatercard.com/faqs-2/>

https://dbw.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=29232

https://dbw.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=28816