

Dedicated to the Memory of Commissioner Enoch S. "Inky" Moore Jr.

PLAY

Fall
2009

Pennsylvania • League • of • Angling • Youth

by Adam Spangler

BACK TO THE BASICS: BOATS

There are many different types of boats. Boats are anything that will float in the water. Before you board a boat, you will need the right safety gear.



Why do you need to bring safety equipment? First, the law requires that you carry some safety equipment. Second, accidents happen. You want to be prepared.



Boaters drown every year, because they do not have proper safety equipment on or along with them. In this issue, you will learn about safe boating and safety equipment. For more information, visit:

www.fishandboat.com or www.boatingsidekicks.com.

The Best Way to Stay Afloat

The most important piece of safety equipment is a life jacket or personal flotation device (PFD). Wearing a life jacket on a boat is like wearing your seat belt in a car. If an accident happens, both could save your life. Life jackets, like seat-belts, only work when you wear them.

★ Life jackets come in all shapes, sizes and colors. There are five types of life jackets, based on use and purpose.



Type I - OFF-SHORE LIFE JACKET

Over 20 pounds of buoyancy, designed to turn an unconscious person face-up.

Type II - NEAR-SHORE BUOYANT VEST

Minimum 15.5 pounds of buoyancy, designed to turn an unconscious person face-up.



Type III - FLOTATION AID

Minimum 15.5 pounds of buoyancy, not designed to turn an unconscious person face-up; more comfortable for water sports.

Type IV - THROWABLE DEVICE

Minimum 16.5 pounds of buoyancy, designed to be grasped, not worn.



Type V - SPECIAL-USE DEVICE

Must be used in accordance with any requirements on the approved label.



A label on the life jacket lists the size and type.



★ Make sure your life jacket fits properly. A life jacket that's too large will slip over your head. If it is too small, it may not keep you afloat. The more comfortable the jacket, the more likely you will wear it. You can check the fit by doing the touchdown test:

- 1 Put on your life jacket.
- 2 Raise your arms over your head as if you were signaling a touchdown.
- 3 Have someone lift your life jacket straight up by the shoulders.
- 4 The jacket should stay in place. If the zipper touches your nose or almost comes off, the jacket is too big.

Boats Come in all Shapes and Sizes

There are lots of different kinds of pleasure boats. Some have motors, some don't. Boat motors use gasoline, diesel fuel or electricity for power. Outboard motors clamp on to the back of the boat. Inboard motors are hidden below the deck. Boats without motors are powered by you or by the wind.



Motorboats range from small to very large. Some motorboats are longer than a school bus. Bigger boats need larger, more powerful motors. Some boat motors look like car or truck engines. Boats 16 feet and smaller are very popular in Pennsylvania.

Which boat is right for you?

Like cars, boats are designed and built for certain uses. Some are made to tow water skiers or tubers. Others are made for fishing. There are even boats that act like a floating deck, for picnicking and sunbathing.



If you want to be the motor for your boat, a canoe or kayak is a good choice. Many new boaters start with a canoe or kayak. These boats allow you to get close to fish and wildlife. Paddles are used to move the boat through the water. A jon boat or row boat is rowed with a pair of oars.

Before you Hit the Water



Safe boaters do a lot of work before they hit the water. Before you go boating you should:

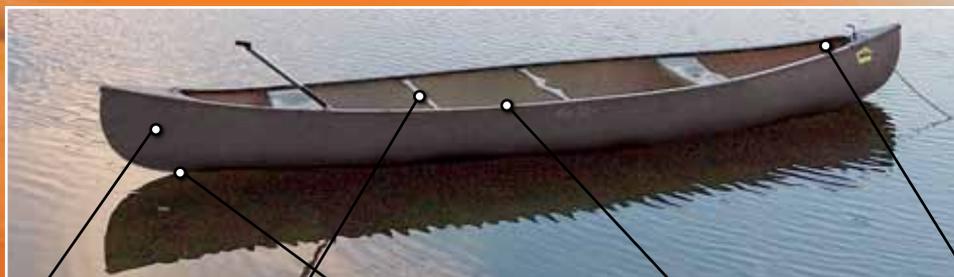
- Gather your safety equipment.
 - Life jacket (that fits correctly)
 - Whistle
 - Water and food
 - Sunscreen and sunglasses
 - Bailer (to get water out of your boat)
 - Flashlight (if you get caught out on the water at night)
- Make sure your boat is safe and water ready
- Inspect your boat for holes, missing screws or rivets.
- Make any necessary repairs before going out on the water.
- Make sure the motor is in working order.
- Make sure you have plenty of fuel, paddles or oars, an anchor.
- Check the weather report before you go.



Paddle your Way around a Canoe

Below is a canoe with the parts identified.

- The front of a canoe is the bow.
- The back is the stern.
- The top edges are gunwales (gun-nels).
- The line down the center of a canoe is called the center line.
- The bars across the open part of the canoe are called thwarts. Thwarts make the canoe strong.



Stern



Thwarts



Center line



Gunwales



Bow

Paddles also have different parts.

- The top of a paddle is the grip or handle.
- Below the grip is the shaft.
- The part that moves you through the water at the bottom of the paddle is the blade.



Blade



Grip



Shaft

When canoeing, always stay in the center of the boat to keep the canoe balanced. If your canoe is not balanced, it will capsize or flip more easily. Remember to load your gear evenly too.

Now you know the Parts of a Canoe and Paddle

Find these words in the word search below.

- | | | |
|-------------|----------|---------|
| blade | grip | stern |
| bow | gunwales | thwarts |
| center line | shaft | |



C E T G U I O P T H G N M B
E O G U K L M V X Z S Y U O
N L M N V G D X Z E T Q X W
T K S W O P T T M O E Z S E
E E D A L B F M R L R T I U
R S Q L H A H D S C N R G I
L J J E H J S W P M B T E M
I K R S G E R E I E I O V P
N Y G Y T H W A R T S Y O X
E F T R E S L I G P F U L H

Paddling is a skill that takes practice.

It is a great family activity. Remember, life jackets are the key to being safe on the water.

PLAY

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