

BOAT PENNSYLVANIA

BY DAN MARTIN

POPULAR WITH KEYSTONE STATE BOATERS

Pennsylvanians can now take a boating safety education course and earn a Boating Safety Education Certificate at home. To date, more than 7,000 boaters have taken advantage of the opportunity to take the Commission's "Boat Pennsylvania" Internet and Video/Correspondence Courses.

These courses were designed for Pennsylvania's recreational powerboaters. However, they are available to anyone interested in boating or boating safety. The Boat Pennsylvania courses are an excellent alternative to attending a classroom boating course. Like classroom courses, the new Boat Pennsylvania courses supply boaters with practical information so they can make informed decisions on the water.

The Boat Pennsylvania Internet Course is an interactive program that any boater will enjoy. You can take the course free of charge until you choose to take the final "certification" examination. If you don't need a certificate but want to learn more about boating, this colorful course is the place to go. When you miss a question, it tells you where you can find the correct answer. It's a great way to challenge your boating knowledge. Best of all, it's fun!

The Boat Pennsylvania Video/Correspondence Course includes a full-color instruction manual. The manual is accompanied by a 60-minute video overview of boating and boating safety. The manual is an easy-to-follow guide. It explains Pennsylvania and federal boating laws and regulations, navigation rules and aids, and handling boating emergencies. Included are exercises to aid your study and material retention. The video follows the instruction manual. Combined with the manual, the video makes the course a fun way to learn about boating.

Both Boat Pennsylvania courses have six chapters of boating information. This is followed by a 75-question multiple-choice test, a practice test, or chapter re-

view exercises. Once the student is secure with the knowledge, the student can take the final certification exam. A passing grade of 80 percent must be achieved to qualify to be issued a PA Fish & Boat Commission Boating Safety Education Certificate. The vendor issues a temporary certificate good for 60 days. A permanent credit-cardlike certificate issued by the Commission follows.

Boating Safety Education Certificates are required for all operators of personal watercraft (Jet Skis®, Sea Doos®, Wave Runners®, Tiger Sharks®, and others). They are also required for youth 12 to 15 years of age when operating boats powered by motors of 10 horsepower or more.

To order the Commission-designated Internet boating course, visit our web site: www.fish.state.pa.us. Click on "Boat Pennsylvania." The price is \$15, payable to the contractor who designed and administers the course. To order the Boat Pennsylvania Video/Correspondence Course, call 1-800-460-9698. The price is \$24.95 plus \$5 shipping/handling. There is a "Family Pak Option," and extra manuals and certification tests are available for \$10 each.

