

July/August 1984

# BOAT

Pennsylvania



80¢



*The Keystone State's Official Magazine for Canoeists,  
Kayakers, Powerboaters, Rafters, Sailors, and Water Skiers*

## NEW BOATING LAW



The U.S. Coast Guard and the National Transportation Safety Board have estimated that more than half of the recreational boating accidents and fatalities throughout the country are alcohol-related. In Pennsylvania we have found that absolute data on boating accidents and alcohol abuse is most difficult to secure. Boating accident reports are completed by the boaters, and individuals are not likely to report their own alcohol use. However, a good percentage of our investigations have indicated alcohol as a factor in far too many of Pennsylvania's boating accidents.

To attempt to minimize this problem the Commission supported Senate Bill 994, which addresses the operation of watercraft while under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance; testing apparatus, procedures, and personnel; and the crime of homicide by watercraft.

The bill, signed into law by Governor Thornburgh on May 30, 1984, was introduced by Senator James A. Romanelli of Allegheny County. Persons convicted of operating a watercraft while under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance may receive a penalty ranging from a fine of not less than \$250 nor more than \$2,500 or imprisonment not exceeding 90 days, or both. The new law specifies that a person is prohibited from operating or physically controlling the movement of a watercraft if he is under the influence of alcohol or any controlled substance or a combination of both which renders the person incapable of safe operation, or the amount of alcohol by weight in the blood of the person is 0.10 percent or greater.

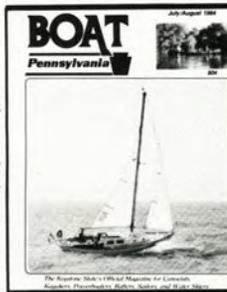
While the Commission did indeed support this legislation, our intent is not to limit recreational activities on the waterways within Pennsylvania. Instead, our goal is to better ensure the safety of those participating in this rapidly growing sport. According to our boating fatality reports from 1983, eight Pennsylvania residents lost their lives in boating accidents caused by alcohol impairment, and that is exactly what we are trying to eradicate.

*Ralph W. Nhele*

# BOAT

## Pennsylvania

The Cover



This issue's front cover, photographed by Gus Neuss, Jr., shows an auxiliary powered sailboat plying the waters of Lake Erie. Sailors with smaller craft will want to check out page 16, while powerboaters won't want to miss the information beginning on page 26.



Lehigh lark page 4



Disaster page 25



Second chance page 8



Family fun page 28



Trailing page 12

### Paddling the Lehigh by Leann R. Diehl

The Lehigh offers terrific paddling for canoeists and kayakers. Here are the details you need to enjoy this waterway ..... 4

### 1984: New Wake on the West Branch

by Ron Frymire  
This story reveals how a group of boaters got together and took the chips off the old logging cribs ..... 8

### Boat Trailing Basics by Virgil Chambers

If you're an experienced trailerer, use these ideas to brush up on the essentials; if you're new to trailering, here are the ABCs ..... 12

### The Waterski's Language

by Bruce Kistler  
How do you spell "OK" or "Ready" or "Hit it"? These signals help all the waterski team members get the message ..... 14

### Righting a Capsized Sailboat

by Janet R. Mayer  
Sailors can increase their efficiency and safety by following these step-by-step procedures ..... 16

### FIRE! by Joe Greene

Let this article help you prevent a tragedy ..... 25

### Pick a Prop for Peak Performance

by Mike Bleech  
Pitch, rpm, rake, and choppers are part of picking the prop that's best for your boat and your needs. Here's the inside info on getting the most for your money and boat ..... 26

### Canoeing with Children by Cliff Jacobson

Family canoeing fun is the name of this game, and the author spells out the ground rules ..... 28

**Viewpoint** ..... 2  
**Currents** ..... 20  
**The Law and You** ..... 20  
**Mall** ..... 23  
**Calendar** ..... 24  
**Safety** ..... 25

**STAFF**

Editor / Art Michaels  
 Graphics / Ted Walke  
 Photographer / Russ Gettig  
 Circulation / Eleanor Mutch  
 Staff Assistant / Jayne Povleski

POSTMASTER: Send form 3579 to Pennsylvania Fish Commission, P.O. Box 1673, Harrisburg, PA 17105-1673. Boat Pennsylvania, ©1984, is published bimonthly. Third class postage paid at Harrisburg, PA. Subscription rates: one year, \$4; three years, \$11; single copies are 80¢ each. For subscription and change of address, contact Boat PA Circulation, Pennsylvania Fish Commission, P.O. Box 1673, Harrisburg, PA 17105-1673. Address all other correspondence to: The Editor, Boat Pennsylvania, P.O. Box 1673, Harrisburg, PA 17105-1673.

**Pennsylvania Fish Commission**

J. Wayne Yorks, *President*  
 Benton  
 Ross J. Huhn, *Vice President*  
 Saltsburg  
 Marilyn A. Black      Calvin J. Kern  
 Meadville              Whitehall  
 Walter F. Gibbs      Robert L. Martin  
 Titusville              Bellefonte  
 Leonard A. Green    Theodore T. Metzger, Jr.  
 Carlisle                  Johnstown  
 Jerome E. Southerton  
 Honesdale

**Boating Advisory Board**

Clayton Buchanan, *Chairman*  
 Pittsburgh  
 Nicholas Apfl  
 Fairless Hills  
 Charles Chattaway  
 Monongahela  
 Sherwood Krum  
 Hawley  
 Leon Lyon  
 Bellefonte

