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# BOAT

*Pennsylvania*

*The Keystone State's Official Boating Magazine*

## **BOATING COURTESY**



Gene Spurl  
Assistant Executive Director  
Bureau of Waterways  
Pennsylvania Fish Commission

Water means freedom to many boaters, but abusing that freedom prevents shoreline property owners and other boaters from enjoying the peacefulness of open water and beaches. It also creates a need for more restrictive laws.

Boaters must respect the rights of shoreline property owners. These rights vary depending on the water level. Generally, property rights extend to the water's edge. The freedom to use waterways does not include the right to use private land. Boaters must have prior permission from the owner to launch or moor a boat on private property.

Noise carries farther on water than on land, especially at night. When anchoring off a waterfront home, keep voices down, play music softly, and leave with a minimum of noise. Be sure to consider winds, waves, and tides. Don't anchor where the boat might drift too close to shore or to other boats.

Water pollution laws prohibit throwing or discharging refuse into the water, so carry a litterbag on the boat. Don't throw any garbage overboard for someone else to pick up.

High-speed boating is dangerous in restricted and congested areas. The boat operator is responsible for spotting and avoiding swimmers and slow-moving craft. This idea is also important when picking up or dropping off water skiers.

Because high speeds produce large wakes, boaters are responsible for damage caused by their wakes to other vessels and to shorelines. Slow down, and watch your wake when approaching congested areas and small boats with low transoms and little freeboard.

Passengers should respect the boat operator's wishes. The operator is responsible for everyone's safety and must be alert at all times. Wear rubber-soled shoes on board. This prevents falls and keeps the deck from being scratched.

The skipper should make sure at least one of the passengers knows how to handle the boat in case of an emergency.

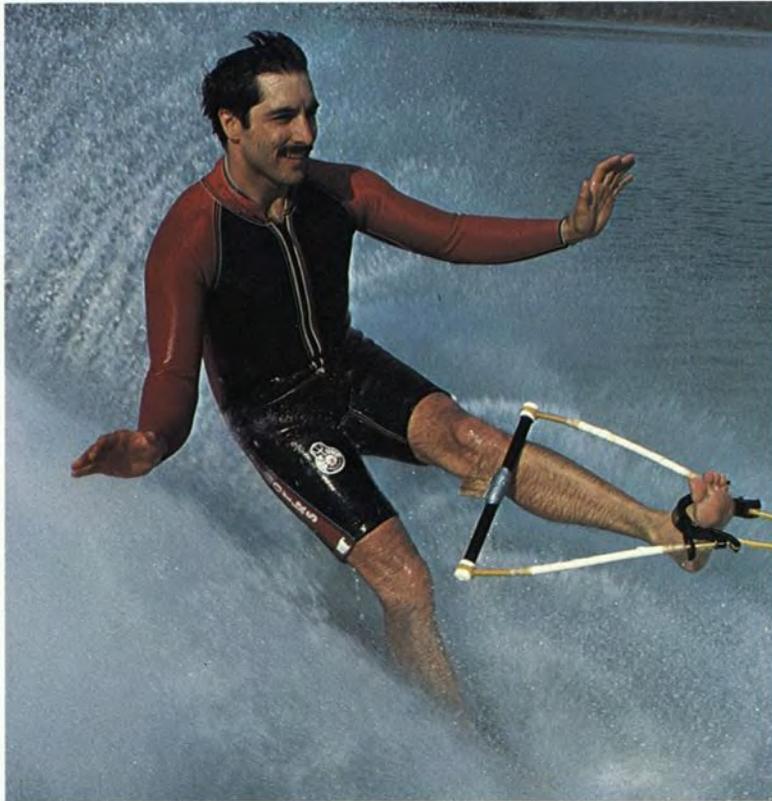
Conscientious boaters know the rules of the road and obey them. They use caution and consideration when mixing noise, speed, and smoke with the gentle, refreshing, relaxing life on the water.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gene Spurl".

The imaginative PFD perspective on this month's front cover was photographed by Art Michaels. With your PFD on, if you're a paddler, you may want to ply pages 6, 13, and 27. Motorboaters will want to see pages 18 and 24, and all boaters ought to scan the features beginning on pages 11 and 14.



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