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BOAT

Pennsylvania 



The Keystone State's Official Boating Magazine

COMMISSION WATER RESCUE TRAINING PAYS OFF



Gene Spori
Assistant Executive Director
Bureau of Waterways
Pennsylvania Fish Commission

“There is little question that the training you are certified to teach will contribute to an increased number of safe and effective water rescues . . .” So reads the letter sent out by the Boating Safety Education Section to those instructors who have successfully completed the Commission’s water rescue training.

However, this year, that statement rings loud and clear. Even though Hurricane Gloria did not hit Pennsylvania as hard as the coastal states, the storm did dump a considerable amount of rain, causing many of our rivers and streams to flood. This flooding caused serious problems for many residents who live along the banks of those waters.

One case in Luzerne County concerned a family literally washed from their home. Responding to this emergency was the Hanover Township Fire Department, Breslau Hose Company, a water rescue trained organization.

According to the boat operator, Jack Rudeski, “Without the Fish Commission’s Phase II training (boat handling), we would not have been able to execute such a rescue. The knowledge and skill gained through the course was critical in such a hazardous situation with high, swiftly moving water.”

The Breslau crew maneuvered its boat into position to pick up five stranded people, minutes and in one case actually seconds away from peril.

Rescuers with basic boating and water safety skills and knowledge, along with planning and practice, can predict the risks to be encountered and execute safe and effective water rescues without endangering themselves unnecessarily. The Breslau Company did just that and saved human lives.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gene Spori". The signature is fluid and cursive.

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This issue's cover, photographed by *Boat Pennsylvania* editor Art Michaels, shows a 6 a.m. summer view of Presque Isle Inlet, looking east. If you're a sailor, let the picture remind you of the slew of storage topics you now need to consider. You won't want to miss the feature on page 17, and motorboat operators will want to check out the article that begins on page 30. In addition, all boaters could use the information in the articles that begin on pages 11 and 24.



Buying page 8



Where the buoys are page 24

Winterizing Your Water Skiing Equipment

by John M. Cornish

Follow this advice and add years to the life of your gear 4

Buying a Used Runabout by Mike Bleech

Some used runabouts are excellent investments. Others aren't. Here's how to tell the difference 8

Boat Storage by Seth K. C. Alexander

Proper storage now saves you money in repair bills and gets you on the water faster next spring 11

Canoe-over-Canoe Rescue by Janet R. Mayer

All paddlers ought to know this maneuver 12

Slalom Racing by John Gephart

Here's an overview of this specialized sport 14

Sail Care by John Kauffman

Take care of your sails now and they'll take care of you next spring 17

Boat Pennsylvania Biannual Subject Index, Volumes 1-2

..... 21

Boating Safety While Hunting by Virgil Chambers

All hunters who use their boats shouldn't miss this information 23

Aids to Navigation by Fred Menke

Yes, judge a buoy by its cover, but first learn what the colors and symbols mean 24

No-Lead Gasoline/Alcohol Blends and Gasoline Recommendations by Jim Kalkofen

Better read this before you gas up 27

Outboard Boat Handling by Virgil Chambers

Steer your way through this capsulated course 28

Mid-Winter Motorboat Maintenance

by Gary Diamond

Some folks say that a boat is a hole in the water made of fiberglass or aluminum into which you pour money. Now, how much money depends on how much maintenance you perform 30

Viewpoint 2
Currents 20

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Your Water

For most water skiers, Labor Day weekend marks the end of the boating season. Boaters invest a considerable amount of time and money to clean, winterize, and prepare their boats and motors for the cold months ahead. It is interesting to find that the water skis and vests that are so carefully protected during the summer season are soon forgotten and left lying in the boat. Here are some do's and don't's to prepare your ski equipment for the long winter season.

All skiers, from beginners to advanced competitors, value their ski equipment. They try to protect it so that it will last for many seasons of skiing fun. Proper care and maintenance does help! Skiing equipment consists of three major components: skis, rope, and vests. Skigloves and wetsuits are two optional equipment supplements.

The first step in winterizing your ski equipment is collecting it all in the basement or garage to allow everything to dry thoroughly. Damp ski bindings, vests, wetsuits, and gloves are excellent breeding grounds for mold and mildew. Be sure to include all your life jackets and other damp articles in your collection of equipment to dry out. The equipment should be allowed to dry for at least one week away from direct sunlight or extreme heat, with constant air circulation.

During this period, a careful inventory and inspection of equipment can be made. The long winter is a perfect time to make minor repairs or to send items to the manufacturer for major reconditioning. Plans to replace equipment can also be considered. Avoid the spring rush and don't miss the first ski ride of the new season by getting repairs and replacements done ahead of time. This type of winter