

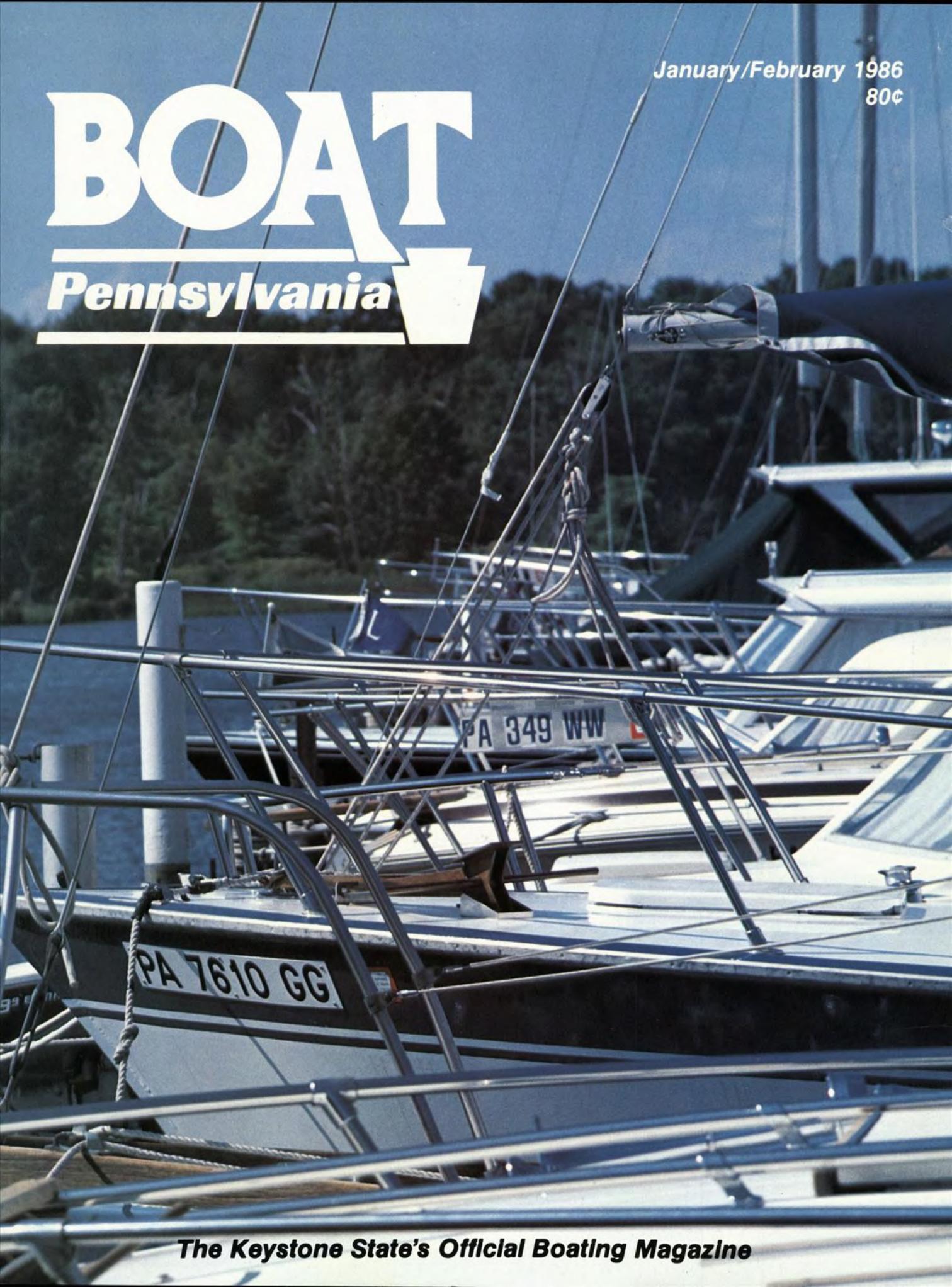
January/February 1986  
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# BOAT

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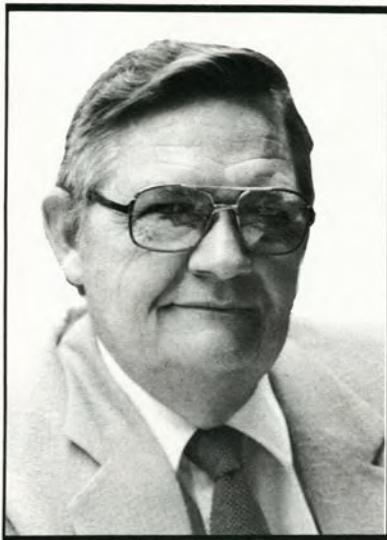
*Pennsylvania*

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**The Keystone State's Official Boating Magazine**

## PERSPECTIVE ON ACCOMPLISHMENTS



**Gene Spori**  
Assistant Executive Director  
Bureau of Waterways  
Pennsylvania Fish Commission

As the new year begins, it is time to reflect on the accomplishments of the previous year. Boating was exceptional during most of the year with good water conditions and fair weather. The number of accidents was at an all-time low primarily as a result of the absence of high, cold water in the early part of the year. We would also like to think that our educational efforts as well as the common sense of Pennsylvania's boaters had a great deal to do with this decline.

Law enforcement efforts continue to make the water safe for all users. Citations were issued for 3,481 violations of the Boat Law and some 14,000 warnings were issued. The enforcement of the new drunk boater law gained much media attention, but the results of a full year of enforcement showed what we believed all along—that our boaters are some of the best in the nation. Despite national statistics to the contrary, Pennsylvania had only 15 arrests for operating under the influence of alcohol, and most of these arrests were made in conjunction with the violation of some other regulation.

The number of boat registrations continued to climb. Over 228,000 boats were registered, an increase of over 11,000 from 1984. This 5 percent increase continues a long history of consecutive increases, emphasizing the quality of water recreation opportunities and the health of boating in Pennsylvania. Also notable is that 14,000 people indicated that they were first-time boat owners.

Boating safety education continues to follow the course set several years ago with prime emphasis placed on the education of youth in conjunction with high school aquatics courses. Last year, the course was taught in 18 school districts. It is our hope that this program will be expanded to include many more in the near future.

Also taking a great deal of time and effort of the section is the river rescue training project. The benefits of this

program became quite evident when in late September a volunteer fire company used the training it received from the Commission to rescue by boat five individuals stranded by the high water produced by Hurricane Gloria. Our program was credited with the success of the rescue.

The Fish Commission operates a network of over 250 developed boating accesses across the Commonwealth. During this past year, major additions to this system were accomplished at Halifax, Frankford Arsenal, Montgomery, Muncy, and Conneaut Lake. Several important new sites were acquired, and initial engineering work was completed for access development in the coming year. The maintenance of these areas has become an increasingly time-consuming, expensive undertaking. Five regionally headquartered maintenance crews are responsible for the upkeep of these areas as well as repairing hatchery facilities, Commission-owned buildings and equipment, lake structure management, and other duties.

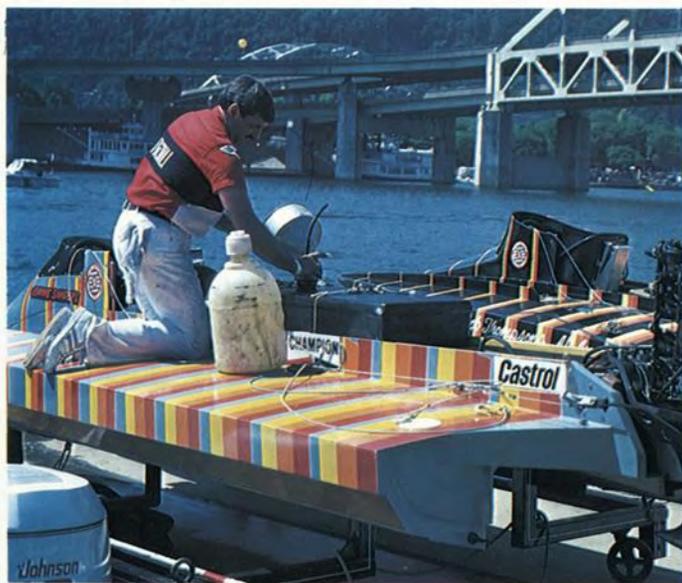
The magazine you are now reading is the result of a concerted effort by both the Office of Information and the Boating Safety Education Section. Funded in part by the Coast Guard grant for boating safety, this publication is an effort by the Commission to provide the boaters of the Commonwealth with local boating information. The circulation has topped 10,000, a most encouraging figure for a magazine of this type in its first year of operation.

Overall, it has been an exceedingly good year and an exciting one. We're proud of our accomplishments, and we're proud of our boaters. A complete copy of the Annual Report of Fish Commission activities is available by writing to: Publications Section, Pennsylvania Fish Commission, P.O. Box 1673, Harrisburg, PA 17105-1673.

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

# BOAT

## Pennsylvania



The fastest racers page 26



French Creek odyssey page 28

Beneath the surface appearance of snow-covered trailered boats and ice-locked shorelines, we're swamped with things to do—the repairs and maintenance we're wrestling with, the equipment changes we're making, and the new boating challenges we're anxiously seeking. Along these lines, paddlers could be spurred on by the articles that begin on pages 8 and 12, and sailors might be equally stimulated by the information beginning on page 18. Motorboaters could also be inspired by the article beginning on page 26. This issue's cover was photographed by *Boat PA* editor Art Michaels.

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