

BOAT

Pennsylvania

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The Keystone State's Official Boating Magazine

VIEWPOINT

BOATING ACCESSES

On June 20, 1986, the Fish Commission formally opened a new boat launching area at the site of the old Frankford Arsenal in Philadelphia. This opening was the culmination of years of effort to provide a place for residents of southeastern Pennsylvania to launch their boats onto the Delaware River. Declared surplus by the federal government in 1981, the Commission received title to approximately 19 acres of waterfront property. A design for an area that would eventually accommodate 350 car/trailers was developed. Construction was scheduled to be accomplished in phases, and the first two phases were completed this spring. The area currently has room for 190 car/trailers and has three two-lane launch ramps and courtesy boarding docks. Twenty-four-hour security has been provided on the site, although the area is currently closed from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. Reports indicate that this much needed access is receiving the use that was expected and will in future years become a very important part of boating in Philadelphia.

While this access and others under construction in Cowanshannock in Armstrong County and Chillisquaque in Northumberland County are meeting some local needs, a recently completed conference of state and federal agencies involved in the development of boat launches and marinas held in Detroit has concluded that good boating facilities are sorely needed in many areas. It is estimated that there are currently about 16,000 public launch sites nationwide. The phenomenal growth in boating recreation, however, will place demand on facilities to quadruple the number of sites currently available by the year 2000. Meeting this need will require a concerted effort by local, state, and federal agencies. Investment by private industry must be encouraged, while at the same time assuring that access by the public is not denied.

A major new organization has come out of the Detroit conference. The States Organization for Boating Access was formed. The purpose of this organization is to promote the acquisition, development, and administration of recreational boating facilities by providing a medium for the exchange of views and experiences; by fostering private, interstate, and federal-state cooperation and coordination in boating facility design, construction, and financing; by exchanging views, ideas, concepts, and experiences relating to all aspects of recreational boating facilities; and by increasing efficiency in the acquisition, construction, maintenance, and administration of recreational boating facilities.

The Pennsylvania Fish Commission will become a charter member of this organization. The development of boating access is an important element in the economy of the Commonwealth. Let us know what you think, and look for good things to come.



Gene Spori
Assistant Executive Director
Bureau of Waterways
Pennsylvania Fish Commission

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

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The cover

This issue's seasonal cover photograph, taken by Don Carey, shows the helm of a pontoon boat at Lake Wallenpaupack. It suggests that we reflect on the season past and anticipate and prepare for next season. Along these lines, if you're considering moving up in the skiing world, the article that begins on page 4 can help you get just the right slalom ski for your level of skill.

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