

# DEALER NEWSLETTER

DEDICATED TO COMMUNICATING WITH UTAH'S BOAT DEALERS

Fall 2010

## Boat Dealer Registration Decals & Boat Numbers



Utah State Parks Boating Rangers have seen an increase in the abuse of dealer bow numbers and registration decals over the past season. As a reminder, approved dealer registration decals and bow numbers are valid only when a dealer representative is personally demonstrating a motorboat or sailboat to a prospective buyer.

As a boat dealer, you are responsible for maintaining your registration and bow numbers, and controlling their use. Also, dealer bow numbers and registration decals must not be permanently attached to any vessel, but rather mounted and displayed on a backing plate.

## Winter Preparation for Boat Trailers

Boat trailers are rarely given a second thought unless something goes wrong. Please pass on these trailer prep tips to your customers to help prevent boat damage and trailer accidents.

- Tires: inflate to proper pressure, replace if treads are low or sidewalls are cracked
- Rollers and pads: check, repair as needed
- Brakes: pull wheels, inspect/repair
- Bearings: repack bearings and hubs
- Tongue jack and winch: clean, inspect and lubricate
- Lights: inspect brakes, turn signals; repair as needed



## Bad Weather Boating Tips

Utah's weather can change rapidly and create unexpected situations for boaters. Utah State Parks Boating Rangers encourage you to share these bad weather boating tips with your customers:

- Wear your life jacket
- Keep a lookout for other vessels and floating debris
- Sound your horn or whistle in foggy conditions
- Switch to a full fuel tank
- Head for the nearest shore that is safe to approach
- Head into waves at a 45-degree angle
- Close all hatches and windows to reduce the chance of swamping
- Reduce speed, but keep enough power to maintain headway and steering
- Secure loose items
- If engine stops, drop the anchor from the bow
- Take appropriate warm clothing

Finally, watch for changes in the weather and monitor the weather forecast. As always, make sure you inform a close friend or relative of where you are boating and when you will return.

## Ladders for Life

U.S. Coast Guard statistics show that most boating fatalities occur among vessels less than 21 feet in length. In some cases, the victim was simply unable to re-board their boat. Ladders can save lives. As a dealer, please consider offering a ladder in a new owner package or offering ladders at a discounted rate to your buyers. Also, educate and encourage your customers to practice using a ladder before an accident happens. Boat owners should know how to access it from the water and practice re-boarding.



### We're here to help!

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If you have comments, article suggestions, or other information you would like to see addressed in a future newsletter, please let us know. Contact Stacy Stickler at 801-538-7361 or email stacystickler@utah.gov.

More information can be found on our website [stateparks.utah.gov](http://stateparks.utah.gov).