

Smart Harbors

Raising the Standard

Spring 2019

Best Wishes, Anne Smith!

After a decade of service, the Virginia Clean Marina Program would like to extend best wishes to Anne Smith as she leaves the program to pursue other things. Anne began her tenure with VCMP in 2008 when she joined the Virginia Institute of Marine Science Marine Advisory Program as the Clean Marina Specialist. Thank you, Anne, for helping to make Virginia's marinas cleaner and stronger, and best of luck on your future endeavors. VIMS will be looking for someone to take over Anne's role, but in the meantime, questions regarding the Virginia Clean Marina Program can be directed to Pete Hall, phall27@cox.net.



Virginia Clean Marina Recertification

Currently there are 74 certified Virginia Clean Marinas that need to be re-certified. Within the next week or two, Virginia Clean Marina operators will receive an e-mail with instructions on completing the re-certification process. It is set up so that the whole process can be completed and submitted online. We ask that the Recertification Checklist be returned to us within two weeks of receipt of the recertification request. Direct any questions or concerns to Pete Hall at phall27@cox.net or call him at 434-917-5281.



Preparing for Boating Season

The ospreys have returned and the weather is warming, which can only mean one thing – boating season is almost upon us! We are all anxiously awaiting our favorite season of the year. Those Sunday afternoon boat rides with friends and family after a long work week. The hardcore fishing trip you've been planning with your buddies all winter long. Sitting at the dock, drink in hand, admiring all the colors that the sunset has to offer. These are the moments we look forward to the most and they can't get here fast enough. But, as you're counting down to those longer, warmer days, take the time to make sure you're ready. Boat owners and marinas can use this time to make sure their boats and equipment are up-to-date and ready for whatever the season brings.

BoatUS recommends 4 low cost actions to ensure a summer of safe boating:

1. Get a free vessel safety check
2. Register your DSC-VHF radio to get your MMSI number
3. Inspect and prep your life jackets
4. Take a free boating safety course

Are your life jackets or flares out-of-date? If so, check out the BoatUS Life Jacket Loaner Program and the American



Harbor Boats by L. Allen Brewer / CC BY 2.0

Boating Association's flare disposal recommendations.

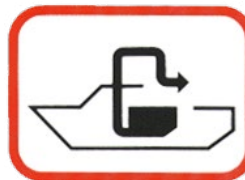
And with the start of boating season comes the start of hurricane season. The 2019 National Hurricane Preparedness Week is May 5-11. For information and resources to help you prepare for hurricane season, visit these sites:

- National Hurricane Center's Hurricane Preparedness Week
- BoatUS Hurricane Tracking and Resource Center
- BoatUS Hurricane Preparation for Marinas & Yacht Clubs
- BoatUS Hurricane Preparation for Boaters
- Virginia Institute of Marine Science Tidewatch

As always, stay safe and enjoy a prosperous and fun boating season.

Clean Vessel Act Grant Program

The Virginia Department of Health has funds available for the installation and maintenance of vessel sewage pump-out and dump stations. The program is funded through the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund. Marinas that find themselves with increasingly higher maintenance costs should consider



applying for funding to replace their existing pump-out stations. Please contact Litta Paulson, Litta.Paulson@vdh.virginia.gov or 804-864-7457 or Preston Smith, Preston.Smith@vdh.virginia.gov or 804-864-7468, for more information on the Clean Vessel Act program and participation for Virginia marinas.

Boating Infrastructure Grant Applications due July 15, 2019

The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) is now accepting applications for the Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG) through Monday, July 15, 2019. The BIG program is administered through the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and VDH. The program is funded by the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund. The BIG program is authorized to provide and enhance infrastructure at boating facilities for transient recreational vessels 26 feet or more in length. The enhanced infrastructure includes, but is not limited to transient docks, mooring buoys, WiFi, bathhouses, security enhancements, and other equipment and services that benefit eligible users of the facility. There are two types of grants available, Tier 1 – State and Tier 2 – National. Tier 1 – State BIG is competitive on the state level and provides up to \$200,000 per state for eligible projects. BIG Tier 2 – National competes on a national level with an award ceiling for eligible projects typically set at \$1,500,000. See 50 CFR Part 86, Boating Infrastructure Grant Program; Final Rule, published May 6, 2015, for guidance on proposal preparation. Please note that the scoring criterion was updated in 2018. Please do not hesitate to contact Preston Smith, Preston.Smith@vdh.virginia.gov or 804-864-7468 with any questions. Submit applications early for a better chance of success so that VDH and the USFWS can provide feedback and determine if qualifications are met.



National Marina Days

National Marina Days: Summer of Giving, a celebration of boating, community, and giving back, kicks off June 9 and continues through Labor Day. As families search for fun outdoor activities that everyone can enjoy, we want to encourage them to give boating a try while also helping a good cause. Existing boaters are always ready to celebrate with a day on the water, but during National Marina Days we ask them to bring a non-boater out to share the experience. We hope you will visit your local marina to learn about boating and enjoy the events.



To register your marina for National Marinas Day or for event ideas, go to <https://nationalmarinaday.org>.

Now, more than ever, Americans need outdoor, safe, family-friendly ways to spend their leisure time. National Marina Day introduces boating as just such an activity and reminds existing boaters and our community that marinas are a local, environmentally-friendly, beautiful gateway to on-the-water fun.

National Marina Day is produced by the Association of Marina Industries, and Discover Boating. For more information visit www.nationalmarinaday.org.

SOBA's 33rd Annual Boating Access Educational Symposium: Overcoming Challenges and Improving Boating Infrastructure

by Libby Yranski, Executive Director

SOBA's Annual Boating Access Education Symposium will be here before you know it and registration is now open! The Virginia Department of Health and the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries will be co-hosting the 2019 event in Portsmouth, Virginia. Over the past couple of months John Kirk, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries and Preston Smith, Department of Health have been busy developing an agenda for the event.

When: September 9 – 12, 2019

Where: The Renaissance Portsmouth-Norfolk Waterfront Hotel in Portsmouth. Our room rate is \$94 plus taxes. To make your reservations today, please click here.



Registration: Register for the conference HERE.

The Program: Monday will feature the WSFR Training Day; Tuesday and Wednesday will feature the

General Sessions, Breakout

tracks with Engineering, Clean Vessel, and Boating Infrastructure; a full Exhibit Hall with Vendors; Awards program; and the

traditional boating access site visits along the Eastern

Shore of Virginia.

The conference theme is "Overcoming Challenges and Improving Boating Infrastructure." As professionals providing access to boaters, we face many challenges from securing locations and agreements to building in rising seas and changing weather. I encourage you to come and share your experiences with your fellow new and old SOBA colleagues and friends. Together we can overcome any challenges that we face, in order to provide great infrastructure and opportunities to our boating constituents.

If you or any of your colleagues, or somebody you may know have a specific expertise, experience, or knowledge in regards to boat sewage, the American's with Disabilities Act, public access, climate change, and engineering/design or non-motorized boating access and you are interested in speaking at SOBA please contact either john.kirk@gif.virginia.gov or preston.smith@vdh.virginia.gov.

Virginia Clean Marina Website Update

The Virginia Clean Marina Website is undergoing a much-needed facelift and content overhaul. The new site, scheduled to launch in early summer will have updated content on the information you need most, including the Virginia Clean Marina guidebook and checklist, clean boater information, regulatory help and links to resources, and will sport a sleek new look.