

Life jackets make difference in boating safety

OUTDOOR INSIGHTS

BILL PARKER

Last year, 28 people died in boating-related accidents and 23 of them were not wearing a life jacket.

"If life jackets had been worn, it's possible that 23 of these Michigan boaters may still be alive today," said Van Snider, president of the Livonia-based Michigan Boating Industries Association.

The fatal accidents weren't

limited to large pleasure boats either.

Twenty-one of the 27 boats involved in fatal accidents were 16 feet or less in length. Ten of the 27 did not have a motor and 14 of them were kayaks, canoes, rowboats, paddleboats and/or personal watercrafts.

The theme for this year's National Safe Boating Week is "Wear Your Life Jacket - Boat Smart from the Start," which pretty much sums it up.

Michigan law mandates that every boat must have at least one Coast Guard approved life jacket, in the appropriate size, on board for every passenger.

If your boat is 16 feet in length or greater you must also have a throwable flotation device. In addition, life jackets must be worn by water skiers, people riding personal watercrafts, and children under age six.

Boating has a \$3 million

impact annually on Michigan's economy according to the MBIA. The state features 1,406 public access sites, 800 marinas, 880 marine dealers, 116 boat manufacturers, 131 trailer and accessory manufacturers and 66 Great Lakes Recreational Harbors.

If you're in the market for a new or used boat, or are simply interested in seeing what's on the market plan a trip to Metro Beach Metropark in Mount Clemens for the annual Spring Boat Show, the unofficial kickoff to the boating season.

Boat show on tap

Sponsored by Boat Show USA, the event features hundreds of boats, trailers and boating accessories. Show hours are noon-8 p.m. each day. Admission is \$5 for adults and children under age 12 will be admitted free. If you're planning an outing to

one of Michigan's 11,000 inland lakes or, especially, to one of the Great Lakes, it's a good idea to call ahead to see if the particular ramp you plan to use in operation. Dozens of private facilities have already closed up shop and 10 state-run boat ramps on the Great Lakes are restricted to small boats only. Ramps in Chippewa, Delta, Emmet, Grand Traverse, Huron, Manistee, and Leelanau counties have restrictions in place and the DNR has removed the skid piers from these sites.

To check if a state-run facility is open to all boats or not call the DNR's Parks and Recreation Division at 617-373-9900, or visit the DNR Web site at www.dnr.state.mi.us.

Salmon Stakes results

The 22nd annual River Crab Salmon Stakes charity fishing tournament, held April 29 in St.

Clair, netted \$97,000 for family service clinics throughout Michigan and set a record for participation as 1,562 anglers entered the event.

Ron Maschke had the biggest King salmon at 18.76 pounds, John Richardson caught the largest steelhead at 7.2 pounds, Danny Owen landed the biggest brown trout at 10.18 pounds and Steve Jackson took the top prize in the coho salmon division with a fish that weighed 3.4 pounds.

NAWA Tourney results

Kelley Howard of Garden City and Ryan Lescoe of Westland teamed up to place sixth in the recent North American Walleye Anglers Team Tournament on Lake Erie.

The two local anglers were fishless on the first day of the two-day tournament, but dominated the second day with a four-fish catch that went 20.82

pounds, including the big fish of the tournament that weighed 8.76 pounds. The next closest competitor on the second day weighed in just 9.22 pounds. They pocketed \$438 dollars for their effort.

Steven Butler of Westland and Jim DeVries of Canton placed 11th with three fish that weighed 7.03 pounds. Waterford's Byron Niekamp and Moe Niekamp, of New Bremen, Ohio, placed 13th with two fish that weighed 5.34 pounds.

(Bill Parker writes a weekly outdoor column for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Hunters and anglers are urged to report their success. Questions and comments are also encouraged. Send information to: Outdoors, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009.)

OUTDOOR CALENDAR

CLASSES

FLY TYING

Paint Creek Outfitters in Rochester offers a variety of fly tying classes for beginners and advanced tiers. Call (248) 660-0440 for more information or to make a reservation for an upcoming class.

FLY TYING

River Bend Sport Shop in Southfield offers fly tying classes for beginners, intermediate and advanced tiers. Classes will be held at various times. For more information and to register call (248) 350-8484 or (248) 591-3474.

FLY TYING

Westbank Anglers, located in the Bloomfield Plaza at Telegraph and Maple roads, offers fly tying clinics (beginning, advanced, Atlantic salmon, and fly tying round table). All clinics will be conducted at the store and will cover tying tools, tool uses, and understanding of materials. All classes are limited to six students. Call (248) 538-3474 for specific times, dates and fees.

FLY CASTING

Westbank Anglers, located in the Bloomfield Plaza at Telegraph and Maple roads, offers fly casting clinics on Sundays through mid-July. The clinics, designed to run from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., will be held at Cranbrook Academy. Students are instructed in basic casting techniques, overview of fly fishing tackle and knots, basic entomology, fish fighting skills, stream etiquette, and how to release a fish. Call (248) 538-3474 with questions regarding dates, times, fees and availability. Class size is limited.

ACTIVITIES

DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS
Detroit Area Steelheaders, Inc. membership meetings are held the last Tuesday of each month at Knights of Columbus, St. Pius X, 6117 Chicago Road, in Warren. The public is welcome. More information can be obtained by calling Ed Wilczek at (810) 757-7365 or club President Ray Banbury at (810) 598-0310.

ARCHERS OF WEST BLOOMFIELD
Open shoot hours are from 1-5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday and 6-10 p.m. Thursday. For more

information, call (313) 826-2110.

LIVONIA RANGE
The Livonia Archery Range is open to the public. The range features seven field lanes and one bowhead lane and is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. The range is also open Tuesdays and Thursdays by appointment only through the end of November. Cost is \$4 for adults and \$2 for children. Livonia residents shoot free of charge. The range is located on Glendale Ave., east of Farmington Road. Call (734) 468-2410 for more information.

BASE TOURNAMENT
The 2000 Top Bass Tournament will be held at various sites throughout the summer months. The schedule is as follows: Saginaw Bay, May 27; Lake St. Helen, June 3; Wixom Lake, June 24; Sanford Lake, July 8; Wixom Lake, July 22; Lobdell Lake, Aug. 6; Lake St. Helen, Aug. 19; and Wixom Lake, Aug. 26-27. Guaranteed payouts will be awarded with amounts determined by the number of entries. For more information, call (734) 729-1762 or (734) 422-5813.

CLINTON VALLEY BASS

club is seeking new members (boaters and non-boaters are welcome). The club meets monthly at Gander Mountain in Waterford. Call Mike Daly at (248) 666-8910.

METRO-WEST STEELHEADERS
Metro-West Steelheaders meets at 7:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month in the cafeteria at Garden City High School. Call Dominic Liparuto at (248) 476-5027 for more information.

MICHIGAN FLY FISHING
The Michigan Fly Fishing Club meets at 7:30 p.m. the first and third Wednesdays of each month at Livonia Clarenceville Middle School, located on Middlebelt Road between Seven and Eight Mile roads. Call (810) 478-1494.

FOUR SEASONS
The Four Seasons Fishing Club meets 7:30-9:30 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month at the Civic Park Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road, in Livonia. Call Jim Kudej at (734) 591-0843 for information.

HURON VALLEY STEELHEADERS
The Huron Valley Steelheaders meets the third Thursday of each month at the Knights of Colum-

bus Hall, 27600 Hall Rd., Flat Rock. Call Carroll White at (734) 285-0843 for information.

BASS ASSOCIATION
The Downriver Bass Association, a non-tournament bass club, meets at 6:30 p.m. the fourth Tuesday of every month at the Gander Mountain in Taylor. Call (734) 676-2863 for information.

METROPARKS

METROPARK REQUIREMENTS
Most Metropark programs are free while some require a nominal fee. Advanced registration and a motor vehicle permit are required for all programs. Call the respective parks toll free at the following numbers: Stony Creek, 1-800-477-7766; Indian Springs, 1-800-477-3192; Kensington, 1-800-477-3178; Hudson Mills, 1-800-477-3181.

2000 PERMITS
The 2000 Huron-Clinton Metroparks annual vehicle entry permits and boat launching permits are on sale at all Metropark offices. Vehicle entry permits are \$15 (\$8 for senior citizens). The annual boat launching permits

are \$18 (\$9 for senior citizens). Call 1-800-47-PARKS.

SPRING BOAT SHOW
More than 1,000 of the finest new and used boats will be displayed at the Spring Boat Show, May 18-21 at Metro Beach Metropark near Mount Clemens. Large boats, ski boats, cruisers, sailboats, jet skis, dinghies, marine equipment and more will be exhibited on the shore and in the water. Boat show hours are 12 p.m.-8 p.m. each day. Admission is \$5 for adults; children under the age of 12 are admitted free. Metro Beach is located at the end of Metropolitan Parkway, three miles east of I-94.

CANOEING
"Voyageur Canoe Day" is scheduled for Saturday, May 27 from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Stony Creek Metropark near the Rochester/Utica area. Learn about the French fur trade and its impact on the Great Lakes. Participants must be at least six years of age. Pre-registration is required. Meet at the Mount Vernon Picnic Area. For additional information or to register, contact the Nature Center at (810) 761-4621.



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NEWSPAPERS



LAST WEEK'S WINNER
Lisa Rosemary
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Tune in WJR 760 AM each Friday at 7:40 a.m. and hear the Athlete of the Week announced on Paul W. Smith's morning show.

To submit your nomination for the High School Athlete of the Week:

1. Send us up to one page of information about the athlete's involvement in sports, community, academic achievements and any awards he/she has received. Include the name of the high school and a picture of the athlete.
2. Include your name and daytime phone number.
3. Send your nomination to:

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2100 Fisher Building, Detroit, MI 48202

Attention: Athlete of the Week

OR

FAX to: 313-875-1988

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