

Into The New Year, With Resolution

The party's over, and our work begins anew — a new year, new opportunities and resolutions, and new waters to explore. This much is not new: BoatU.S. has been working on issues of importance to boaters for over 40 years.

Boating safety education is still right on top of our agenda. As more states, and maybe even the federal government, enact mandatory education laws, BoatU.S. is fighting to keep education convenient, affordable, and consistent. We're lobbying for reciprocity among states so when you pass your boating course in your home waters, your credential will be honored in neighboring states and across the country. The BoatU.S. Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water created a free online boating safety course in 1997. Since then, more than half a million boaters have learned boating basics — for free — from the comfort of their own homes. New in 2010 will be an updated online course from the Foundation, including animation and simulations of real-life scenarios.

Water access is an ongoing problem for boaters from coast to coast. Our resolution remains the same, to generate support for legislation, grant programs, and other opportunities that promote the basic precept that recreational boaters and anglers must be able to get to the water to enjoy it. Our growing concern about the next generation's detachment from the outdoors, means access to even

an hour on the water will play a key role in keeping kids connected to the natural world and fosters the ethic of stewardship that our waters will depend on in the years to come.

Ethanol and its impact on your boat engines, the environment and the economy are of great concern. The Environmental Protection Agency recently announced that it will make a decision in six months on whether to allow higher blends of ethanol in our nation's gasoline. BoatU.S. will continue to push for independent, rigorous scientific testing on marine engines before any future change.

As we enter the New Year, we further commit ourselves to effectively communicating with recreational boaters nationwide — from serving up your magazine on a new digital platform that's easier to navigate and read; to informing you on issues of importance to you through our monthly e-mail newsletter Membership e-Line; to targeted e-mail action alerts to let you know when grassroots activity is the action of choice. If you haven't done so already, please share your email address with us so that we can stay in touch quickly and efficiently.

Meanwhile, *BoatU.S. Magazine* remains our flagship publication, and will continue to arrive in your physical mailbox so you can read it wherever and whenever you choose — no high-speed connection required!

Thank you for being a Member of BoatU.S. and happy New Year from the crew that works for you!



President & Publisher

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