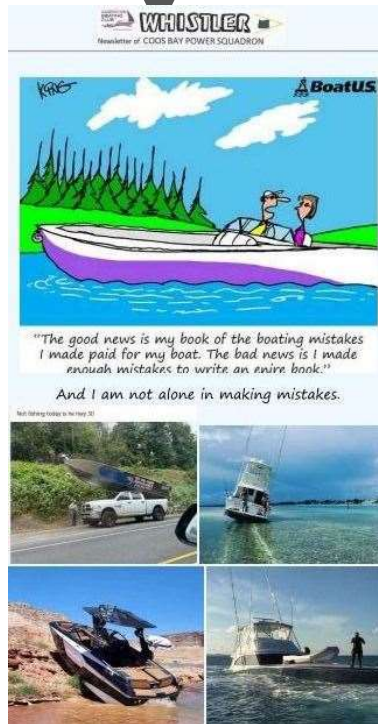


JULY 2024



Coos Bay Power Squadron Preview of possible "Whistler" pages. (subject to change).

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Join America's Boating Club®,
Coos Bay Power Squadron to learn, teach
and promote SAFE and FUN boating.

**Coos Bay Power Squadron
Website**

www.usps.org/coos



Enhanced Patrols July 4-6 Looking for Impaired Boaters

The Marine Board, Sheriff's Offices across the state and the Oregon State Police will be participating in Operation Dry Water, July 4-6, as part of a nationally coordinated effort to reduce the number of accidents and fatalities related to boating under the influence of intoxicants (BUII).

Boating under the influence of intoxicants means prescription drugs, alcohol, inhalants, marijuana, or any other substance that impairs a person's ability to make sound judgments and safely operate a boat. The effects of drugs and alcohol are amplified on the water, due to the combined impacts of environmental stressors like sun glare, wind, wave motion and other factors. Alcohol also dehydrates the body making sudden immersion into cold water at an even greater risk for drowning.

Impaired boaters face serious penalties. The consequences of a BUII conviction include possible jail time, a \$6,250 fine and loss of boating privileges. Marine officers can legally obtain blood, breath or urine if a boater fails field sobriety tests. The US Coast Guard's nationwide statistics for 2023 noted alcohol use as the leading known contributing factor in boating accidents where the primary cause was known and was listed as the leading factor in 17% of deaths.

"Recreational boating is a relatively safe activity when boating sober, wearing life jackets, and staying aware of the surroundings," Paulsen adds. So far this year, the common denominators for boating fatalities are operator inattention, not wearing a life jacket and operator inexperience.

If you see an impaired operator or someone who is operating in a way that threatens others' safety, call 911 to report

For more information about Operation Dry Water, visit www.operationdrywater.org.

Every holiday and heat wave brings water-related incidents, and many people find themselves in situations needing rescue. Right now, water levels on many rivers are running high with very strong currents. Winter landslides and soil saturation have added a lot of woody debris to area rivers in the Willamette Valley. Boaters must be vigilant by keeping a constant lookout by scanning from bank to bank throughout their trip. On moving water, this includes scouting ahead for obstructions, and not getting into water beyond your abilities. A great tool for trip planning is the Marine Board's Obstructions Map. Reported obstructions are listed along with recommendations on the safest navigation path.



"If you intend to recreate on Oregon's waters over the next few days, drink plenty of water, get the right gear for the water conditions, wear your lifejacket and pay attention to your surroundings," says Brian Paulsen, Boating Safety Program Manager for the Oregon State Marine Board. "Cold water doesn't discriminate and impacts everyone the same way. Plan on getting wet and wear a life jacket so you can buy yourself time to get out of any challenging situations." Cold water immersion will cause blood to move away from a person's arms and legs, which leads to cramping; often if a life jacket isn't worn, a person cannot self-rescue. The initial shock also causes an involuntary gasp reflex for air and can lead to inhaling water if a person is not wearing a life jacket.

In 2023, there were 13 recreational boating fatalities and of them, 11 victims were not wearing life jackets. Three of the 13 victims were solo operators. Seven victims were passengers and six were boat operators. Seven involved paddlecraft (including one sailboat under wind power) and six involved motorized boats. Many of these deaths were preventable.

For more information about equipment requirements, rules of the road for paddlecraft and motorized boats, and boating laws and rules, visit Boat.Oregon.gov.

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<https://Boat.Oregon.gov>

Remember to Boat Safe, Boat Sober, and always wear your life jacket.

Are you Properly Equipped?

All boats have equipment requirements based on length and boat type. Know what you must carry on board and how to use the equipment. We recommend always doing a pre-season check and keeping all your gear maintained according to the manufacturer's instructions.

