



Department of Natural Resources ATV – Boating – Snowmobile Instructor Newsletter

Issue No. 1

June 2010

Continuing Education Requirement – *NEW!*

What Is It?

The Recreational Enforcement and Education Section recognized the importance and value of having contact with our instructors, ongoing education and the overall improvement of Wisconsin DNR Recreational Safety Programs. Since January 1, 2010 the Department has been gradually educating its instructors about the new, Continuing Education Requirement. What is it? Basically, it's recertification. The first phase began with the Hunter Education Program and now the second phase continues with the remaining Boat, ATV and Snowmobile Safety Programs. Because this is a new requirement, the Department has made the Continuing Education Requirements simple for instructors to complete. Many instructors have already been doing this, so nothing should really change for them.

What Do I Need To Do?

Before January 1, 2013 you will need to complete some form of continuing education that the Department provides. This includes any one of the following methods:

- 1) **Exam** – (*Recommended for the first time*). This is an open book; fill in the blank exam that covers the Volunteer Instructor Policy and Procedure Manual. This is the manual that all instructors receive after their original certification. The manual is available on the Volunteer Instructor Corner web page at: www.dnr.wi.gov/org/es/enforcement/instructor.html or you can request a hard copy through your local Recreational Safety Warden.
- 2) **Workshop** – a 2 – 3 hour training session put on by your Recreational Safety Warden.
- 3) **Academies and Mini-Academies** – a 1 – 2 day training session put on by your Recreational Safety Warden.
- 4) **Clinics** – a training session held over the course of a weekend or multiple nights in a week.
- 5) **Internet Training** – available to Hunter Education Instructors through the IHEA website.

When Do I Have To Have This Done?

Instructors will need to complete some form of continued education once every three years. The time period begins January 1st and ends three years later on December 31st. For example, all instructors are currently in the three year time period of January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2012.

Questions? If you have any questions, please contact your local Recreational Safety Warden.

Recreational Safety Wardens

South Central Region – Catherina Nooyen-----	(608) 275-3253
Southeast South Region – John Bronikowski-----	(262) 884-2383
Southeast North Region – John Plenke-----	(262) 574-2163
Northeast South Region – April Dombrowski-----	(920) 303-5443
Northeast North Region – Jeremy Cords-----	(920) 662-5129
Northern East Region – Jeff Dauterman-----	(715) 623-4190 ext. 3109
Northern West Region – Chris Wunrow-----	(715) 635-4112
West Central Region – Bill Yearman-----	(715) 839-3717

Roy Zellmer, Boating Law Administrator

Hi everyone! I am back at the ship's wheel again for Wisconsin's boating program after another active military tour. I know at this rate you are only seeing these newsletters once every other year, but with a shifting of duties we will hopefully be able to keep a little more continuity from this point forward.

Let me start by saying thank you! Your dedication to Wisconsin's citizens by educating them on staying safe while boating on any one of Wisconsin's great lakes or rivers is such a valued resource to the Department; I and all of our staff commends you. You continue to work hard in providing a service to your local communities which will benefit them for years to come.

I would like to introduce a new staff member to you. She is Cathy Burrow. Cathy joined our section in the fall of 2008 right before my departure and assisted in managing the program in my absence. She will continue to work closely with me in the boating program. The rest of the staff have been around for a while and are Julie Fitzgerald, Rachel Lesczynski and Wayne Ringquist. I will list their contact information and program area at the end of the article.

Many of you either have started or will start very soon on your boating safety classes for the year and are probably as excited as I am about the warm weather coming which brings along with it, the start of Wisconsin's boating season. I ask you to continue to stress the safety points of our classes, emphasizing the wearing of life jackets, safe operation by following the navigation rules, the water "rules of the road" and simple common courtesy while on the water and finally do not mix alcohol consumption and operating a boat. Julie will provide our boating crash statistics information later in the newsletter. As you may have seen Wisconsin is again this year participating in the Wear It Wisconsin Campaign. This campaign stresses wearing your life jacket and we all know in Wisconsin that wearing your life jacket—should you become involved in a boating crash or find yourself unexpectedly in the water—may very well save your life.

I would like to bring you up-to-date on some legislative information regarding boating in Wisconsin. The first is the new law requiring a motorboat to operate at a slow no wake speed while within 100 feet of the shoreline on any Wisconsin Lake. This was a law introduced by legislators with the main goal of shoreline protection. It is effective for this boating season so please spread the word. Another disappointment coming from the Legislature is our mandatory wear PFD wear bill for children age 12 and younger. The Assembly and Senate could not reconcile differences between their two bills and now the legislative session is over we will have to wait until next time again. The last item I would like to make you aware of is an OWI "Tie-In" bill from recreational vehicles (ATV, Boats and Snowmobiles) to a person's driver's license. My counterpart Gary Eddy, Snow and ATV Administrator, will have more information for you in his article.

Another item which is going to be addressed in a separate article is our new continuing education requirement. This requirement is in essence going to be required for "re-certification" in order to maintain your status as a boating safety instructor. There are many reasons I am sure you will identify with which will have a positive effect on our boating safety program. Please read the re-certification article thoroughly and if you have questions contact your local Recreational Safety Warden or contact me directly.

The last item I want to make you aware of is an initiative to migrate to a more interactive teaching style for our students and move away from our manuals. We will be starting to brainstorm on this in the coming months and will be looking for input from some of you as we move forward. We will also ask for additional instructors to review potential new curriculums for our revised course. I do not anticipate this to change before spring of next year. We want to make sure we put adequate time and thought into the change, be able to prepare by having the appropriate training aids for all of you, and to provide update training to all of you in order to facilitate your use of the new presentation style of our class. As part of this endeavor we have collected lesson plans from many of you over the years, but I would ask again that if any of you have lesson plans which you have developed on your own or from our manual and just put into a lesson plan format which obviously includes hands-on training please share that with your RSW's so we can consolidate them and benefit from the work you've already completed.

I would like to wish all of you a safe and enjoyable 2010 boating season and again I look forward to working with many of you as we look to the future to improve the safety education component of our statewide boating program.

Roy Zellmer – Boating Law Administrator
Cathy Burrow – Boating Law Administrator Administrative Assistant
Julie Fitzgerald – ATV/Boat/Snowmobile Program Assistant
Wayne Ringquist – Ordinance and Waterway Marker Specialist
Rachel Lesczynski – ATV/Boat/Snow Program Assistant

.....
2009 Boating Recreational Safety Stats
.....
: Newly Certified Boating Instructors – 60
: Total Active Boating Instructors – 633
: Boating Safety Classes Held – 278
: Boating Students Certified – 9,757
: Boating Fatal Incidents – 16
.....

By Gary Eddy, ATV/Snowmobile Administrator

Hello all. This is the time of year that many people are putting their snowmobiles in storage and getting their ATVs ready for the trails. This year we again experienced a decrease in our snowmobile fatalities (21), which is below the previous 10 year average of 28. This also marks the fifth year in a row that we had a steady, downward trend in our snowmobile fatalities. The last time this happened was between 1978 and 1983 and we'd certainly like for this trend to continue. This decline also goes hand in hand with the nighttime, 55 mph speed limit and that is the main reason it is set to become permanent this year. Speed, alcohol and nighttime operation continue to be the main contributing factors with our fatalities; 52% involved all three. However, three blood test results are still pending.

Sadly, on March 3, 2010 we received notification that the sole survivor from a head-on, alcohol involved snowmobile crash passed away. This crash occurred on February 26, 2005 and the victim succumbed to her injuries after more than 5 years on life support. Another terrible reminder about how a poor decision to drink and ride can end. This past winter, the Department initiated a "Zero Alcohol – Your Smart Choice" education campaign. These materials were created by the International Snowmobile Administrator's Association through a grant from the Federal Highway Administration. "Zero Alcohol" means no alcohol until you're done riding. Conservation Wardens and DNR Offices provided "Zero Alcohol" materials out to the snowmobiling public in hopes of spreading this positive message. Dependant upon budgets, the Department hopes to create a similar education campaign for the ATV Program.

The ATV fatality rate remains high at (18) and above the previous 10 year average of 14. Just under half of the fatal crashes were alcohol involved and probably the biggest factor is that 72% of the victims were not wearing a helmet. We need to focus our helmet safety message on parents and other adults. Often times in a group of ATV riders, all of the children will have helmets on, yet the adults do not. This is not setting a good example for the younger riders and as our statistics show, the majority of our fatality victims are adults that are not wearing helmets. Road routes continue to be the number one ATV complaint received by the Department. This year we will be looking into taking steps to curtail the amount of road use by ATVs in the state, especially paved roads. This is an issue that is bringing a lot of negative attention to the ATV Program and which will only prove to hamper the future of ATV recreation in Wisconsin.

The new ATV and snowmobile manuals are currently being worked on and thus far look very good and should be a huge improvement over our current manuals. The snowmobile materials should be available this Fall and the ATV materials should be ready by next summer.

There were several legislative items in both the snowmobile and ATV programs. Two law changes in the ATV Program were a change in the ATV definition and specifications and the Utility Terrain Vehicle (UTV) Pilot Program. The ATV definition changed the maximum width of an ATV from 48 inches to 50 inches and also removed all rim size restrictions. It also made it illegal to widen an ATV out beyond 50 inches and to operate an ATV with other than low pressure tires. The UTV Pilot Program allows counties to pass a resolution to permit UTVs to operate on their trails and road routes. This program is open to any county statewide, but it is only temporary and expires in 2012. The legislature will be looking into a permanent program after that. For more information on both of these laws, visit the DNR websites below.

<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/cs/Registrations/ATV.htm>

<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/cfa/LR/UTV/grants.html>

Another law change that affects both the snowmobile and ATV programs is a change to the ATV and snowmobile trespass law. The previous law applied only to private lands and *certain* public lands. The law was enhanced slightly so now it applies to *all* public lands that are either posted or that have rules/laws prohibiting ATV and snowmobile use. Now, it's even more important for riders to check with public land managers to find out what their rules/laws are about riding outside designated areas.

During the writing of this article, the permanent, nighttime, 55 mph speed limit has passed the State Legislature and is ready for the Governor's signature. Also, ready for signing is an ATV snowplow bill. Please check the DNR website for updates.

A proposed law change that would strengthen our ATV, boat and snowmobile OWI penalties ran out of time this year. Several groups showed up in support of this proposed law and continue to support bringing this forward next year. This law sought to unify and tie all the ATV, boat and snowmobile OWI penalties together. Second offense OWI on any of these vehicles would have resulted in a loss of the person's regular driver's license. This law would provide an important deterrence for intoxicated operation and most importantly would save lives. Watch for this law to be introduced early next legislative session.

I want to thank all our instructors for your continued hard work and dedication. In the coming years, the Department will also be asking for your patience as we work through some difficult times. Rest assured that we will continue to do all that we can to improve the Safety Education program and support our volunteer instructor corp.

Thanks again! Gary

WEAR IT Wisconsin - Recreational Safety Warden, April Dombrowski

Wisconsin is participating in the National **WEAR IT** campaign this boating season. What is this program and what can I learn from the program as a boating safety instructor?

The campaign encourages, reminds and highlights the importance of life jacket wear and provides resources for educators. The campaign's purpose is to educate boaters about safe and responsible boating, particularly to wear a life jacket at all times while on the waters. It reminds everyone why it's not enough to simply carry a life jacket, but that you have to wear one. Accidents on the water happen too fast to reach stowed life jackets. The campaign also highlights that today's modern life jackets are more comfortable, less restrictive, and come in a variety of customized styles and colors.

There is a life jacket for everyone, no matter what the water sport may be.



It is our goal to heighten awareness among recreational boaters of the importance of **ALWAYS** wearing a life jacket.

Drowning remains the number one cause of death in recreational boating accidents nationally. For example in 2008, 459 lives ended due to drowning. 90% of those who drowned were not wearing a life jacket. In Wisconsin, there were 16 fatal recreational boating accidents. Of those 15 of the victims were not wearing a life jacket.

It is also important to note that not only just wearing a life jacket will do. The life jacket must be of proper fit. It is important to check the manufacturer's ratings for size and weight and make sure it's United States Coast Guard approved. Proper fit of a life jacket means it fits snugly, it's buckled, or zipped up, and is appropriate for the person's weight.

For more information and resources available from the campaign visit: www.safeboatingcampaign.com and remember to lead by example and **WEAR IT!!!**

[Having a Safety Event?](#)
[Call your Local Recreational Safety Warden for Help.](#)

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS ASK - Recreational Safety Warden, John Plenke

Identifying potential new instructors - Recruitment and retention of instructors is important for any volunteer program to remain afloat. In the Boating, ATV, and Snowmobile safety ranks we are no different than any other state or federal organizations who depend upon volunteers to get their message out to the public. At present we have a solid nucleus of dedicated volunteers who, year in and year out, do a tremendous job within their community of providing this valuable service. What I have noticed, however, is that we are certifying very few "new" instructors into the program. As I have trained many instructors at workshops in the past, I have noticed a lot of the instructors there have gray hair, white hair or no hair. Our ranks are definitely getting older. Once you retire, or step down as "the" instructor for your program in your community, who is going to fill your shoes? To avoid that I encourage all instructors to be actively keeping an "eye out" for those individuals who have the potential and time to become quality safety instructors. Just how do you do that? One factor that I am always impressed with, is the number of adults who take our courses along with their daughters or sons. That is a resource that may be waiting to be tapped. All you have to do is ask. Is every adult who takes your course qualified? Absolutely not. You can identify those who may be potential candidates by how willing they help out in class, how well they interact with the students, their enthusiasm toward the course, and their degree of boating, snowmobile or ATV knowledge and their respect of the instructors who are teaching the program. Once that comes to the surface, pop the question to them before or after class begins. It definitely won't hurt and you may be surprised with the answer. Call your Recreational Safety Warden if you have questions on how to approach these people. Also please refer to the "volunteer instructor corner" of the DNR web site to view the new forms and procedures in place for certifying new instructors into all of our programs. Thank you for all your time and efforts in the programs. Have a nice summer.

IMPROVING YOUR SAFETY EDUCATION COURSE **Recreational Safety Warden, Catherina Nooyen**

The DNR Safety Education Volunteer Instructor Corps is made up of a variety of individuals with different backgrounds and skills, who bring a wealth of knowledge to the safety education classes. Some of you are new to instructing and are just beginning to learn the skills to be a good instructor. Many of you have years of experience teaching a safety education course and have fine tuned your own teaching skills and how your course is taught. As instructors, whether we are experienced or not, have the responsibility to continually strive to improve our courses and our teaching skills. The best instructors are always looking for ways to improve. I think we can all agree that good teaching is instruction that leads to effective learning, which means lasting acquisition of the knowledge and skills the instructor has set out to impart.

The following information details a way to teach that will create active learning in your class. Active learning is a type of learning that involves and engages students in the learning process. It is important to involve students in the learning process because most students cannot stay focused throughout a lecture. After approximately 10-15 minutes, a student's attention begins to drift, first for a few brief moments and then for longer periods of time. By the end of the lecture they are taking in very little information and retaining even less. A student's attention span can be maintained throughout the class by periodically giving them something to do. The DNR has approved lesson plans that get the students involved in active learning and instructors should utilize these lesson plans during their safety education classes. These lesson plans allow the students to take part in the learning process and are written to be utilized with the DNR's preferred method of instruction, which is called EDOC. EDOC stands for Educate, Demonstrate, Observe, and Congratulate.

The first part of EDOC is **E**ducate and the instructor should tell the student what they need to know and explain why it is important. This should not be a long, drawn-out lecture and should be limited to what is most important. The second part of EDOC is **D**emonstrate. The instructor should show or demonstrate to the student how to do the task or activity that is being taught. Let the student see the instructor do it and do it correctly. The third part of EDOC is **O**bserve. This is where the student gets the opportunity to perform the task or activity that the instructor previously demonstrated. The student becomes involved in the learning process and it gets them moving and thinking. This is also the time when the instructor can correct any problems that arise. The last part of EDOC is **C**ongratulate. The instructor should congratulate the student on doing a good job. Consistent and positive reinforcement will help build their confidence.

The EDOC method of instruction, combined with the DNR's approved lesson plans, has proven to be a very successful part of teaching the safety education classes. If you currently do not have any of the DNR lesson plans, they can be found on the DNR website instructor corner web page or contact your local RSW.

Safety Course Roster and Remittance

Hello! Hope you are all getting outside and enjoying some of this nice spring time weather.

By now you are all aware of the student's requirement to acquire by the end of your recreational safety course, if they don't have one to begin with, a WI DNR Customer ID (CID) number. The CID is unique to that student and holds all of their personal information such as their address, phone number, date of birth etc.

Our database has a verification process that matches CID with DOB, this ensures the correct student receives the safety education card. When your class rosters are uploaded if those 2 numbers don't match then that student record is delayed from printing and being mailed until we can manually check it. Depending on our workload this delay can be anywhere from 2 weeks to a month.

What can you do to ensure that the student certificates are printed and mailed within a week of your class roster being received? It's easy, after completing the roster verify what is listed on the roster for the students DOB and CID number against what is listed on the Student Safety Course Registration Card, have another instructor read back to you the

students customer ID number and DOB while you verify that it's correct on the Safety Course Roster. Most common DOB errors we get have the current year as the birth year or there is no DOB at all listed. Taking this one extra little step should help ensure the students receive their recreational safety certificate in a timely manner.

Thanks for all your help and the great job you are all doing in teaching our children the safe and ethical use of recreational vehicles.

Sincerely, *Julie Fitzgerald*

Instructor Updates through Email – Self Subscription
Todd Schaller – Section Chief, Cathy Burrow-Boating Law Adm. Asst.

Volunteer Safety Instructors may sign-up for “DNR Updates” to receive emails with news targeted exclusively at you. Also known as GovDelivery, this is a new service that allows safety instructors to keep up-to-date on information related to the volunteer safety education program via email.

We encourage you to sign-up and participate in the program. It's a great communication system for DNR Recreational Enforcement, Education and Safety staff to communicate information directly to Volunteer Safety Instructors using email. This means of communication also allows us to avoid postage costs.

To sign up, visit the Volunteer Instructor Corner website (<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/es/enforcement/instructor.html>) and click on the “DNR Update” icon in the upper right corner. Follow the sign-up instructions and then scroll down the option list until you locate the Education & Training heading. Below that you'll find Volunteer Safety Education Instructors. You can sign-up for Boat, Snow & ATV and/or Hunter/Bow Hunter Safety. Make sure to click on “save” so the information you provide is entered into the system.

You'll notice “DNR Updates” offers a long list of other areas of interest. This service is open to the public and is available to anyone who is interested. We cannot limit the Instructor sign-up to only certified instructors; however the updates we provide will be specific and relevant to instructors.

Once registered and signed-up, you'll receive occasional information updates from the Administrators of the safety program or DNR safety staff. We do not intend to provide daily, weekly or monthly updates and we won't fill your email boxes with updates. We will use this service to communicate current news and information as it becomes available.

Years of Service as of 12/31/2009

If you should know or happen to run into one of the following instructors please take a moment and congratulate them for their years of volunteer service in the Recreational Safety Programs.

Boating Safety Program - 10 Years

Richard Bartlein	Linda Daly
Geoffrey Carman	David Dauphin
Larry Stellter	Brian Guthman
Larry Loch	Daniel Soergel
Shaun Long	Mark Judas
Michael Klatt	Delon Lambert
Michael Meindel	George Lawrence

Boating Safety Program – 15 years

Donald Hiller	James Eichenseer
John Strese	Thomas Grebe
Charles Harrison	R Jeffrey Burgfechtel
Scott Van Calster	Robert Bloyer
John Peters	

Boating Safety Program – 20 Years

Donald Wiemer

Boating Safety Program – 25 Years

Paul Proulx Don Rasmussen

Boating Safety Program – 35 Years

Ron Shields

ATV Safety Program – 10 Years

Howard Miller Ann Harden
Leroy Momper David Schultz
James Nemec Brenda Brindley
Jerry Jackson John Rusfeldt

ATV Safety Program – 15 Years

Randy Harden Michelle Strathmann

ATV Safety Program – 20 Years

James Hartl

Snowmobile Safety Program – 10 Years

Jerome Fischer Randall Brown
Mark Rhein John Walejewski
Deborah Gauerke Steven Bystrom
Stephanie Kroeger John Miller
Mitchell Dillavou Scott Schuh
Dwight Parkinson Laurie Parkinson
Dion Haase Arlyn Baumgarten
James Kelly Jr Beth Pfaff
Rick Clewien Wayne Otto
Kevin Kellen Mary Seefeld
Gary Mott Lauren Knoeck
Gary Schultz

Snowmobile Safety Program – 15 Years

Jeffrey Booth Michael Cole
Jacqueline Geary James Geary
Dennis Matsche

Snowmobile Safety Program – 20 Years

Paul Lehman Robert Marciniak
James Bertram Ronald Speltz
Paul Buesser Arly Sharkey
Karen Cox Bill Harris
Paul Bertrand

Snowmobile Safety Program – 35 Years

Harold Butschke Ralph Culver
Mayward Krueger Andrew Lindner
Ronald Wendt

Years of Service as of 12/31/2008

Boating Safety Program – 10 Years

Bruce Learman Donald Putning
Chad Breuer Bruce Hanson
Adam Skerbish Robert Bechtel

Boating Safety Program – 15 Years

Gerald Williams Robert Marciniak
Scott Erwin Robert Stevens
Jean Derengowski William Klaetsch
George Lenzner Robert Hagen

Boating Safety Program – 20 Years

Linda Cross Michael Born

Boating Safety Program – 25 Years

Carl Nelson James Rice
Gerald Warner

Boating Safety Program – 30 Years

Roger Cross

Boating Safety Program – 35 Years

Roger and Joanne VanCalser

ATV Safety Program – 10 Years

Rick Clewien Steven Allard
Janice Gazdik Nicole Minnick
Craig Cartwright David Rasmussen

ATV Safety Program – 15 Years

Lloyd Runde Donald Herr Sr
Daryl Rasmussen Joseph Schorn
Robert Lynett Kelly Kohegyi
Kevin Steinmetz

ATV Safety Program – 20 Years

Bruce Learman David Strathmann

Snowmobile Safety Program – 10 Years

Robert Blaszkowski Larry Loch
Gregory Doan Douglas Pavlik
Brad Morter Brett Getzen
Luke Schmalz Chris Brown
Glen Kohler Kathryn Virnig
Gladys Radcliff Richard Radcliff
Kim Ross Grant Pickard
Nancy Olson Kevin Bodoh
Carmen VanDerLeest Richard Seils Jr
Stephen Konkol Robert Hargrave
Stephen Meyer Howard Stibb
Judy Stibb Martin Pietkiewicz
Terry Becker Thomas Petrusky
Howard Miller Duane Schenk
Kenneth Werner Dale Terbeest

Snowmobile Safety Program – 15 Years

Malcolm Wayne Richard Gant
Jerome VanHeukelom Robert Dreher
Robert Lynett Ronald Trzebiatowski
Delvin Smith Mark Kramer
Ronald Rhodes Joseph Russo
Alex Swanson William Mortlock
Dennis Bowe

Snowmobile Safety Program – 20 Years

Marvin Haberland Darryl Rouse
Delores Small Richard Wilger
Wayne Miller Jackie Marten
Peter Nowak

Snowmobile Safety Program – 25 Years

Joseph Mingari Robert Grobarchik
Scott Makowski

Snowmobile Safety Program – 30 Years

Lloyd Runde Harold Gaugert
David Kirkpatrick Barbara Butschke
John Mullen

CONGRATULATIONS!

When my three-year-old son opened the birthday gift from his grandmother, he discovered a water pistol. He squealed with delight and headed for the nearest sink. I was not so pleased.

I turned to Mom and said, "I'm surprised at you. Don't you remember how we used to drive you crazy with water guns?"

Mom smiled and then replied...."I remember."

