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The new CBSOA website is now under construction. Stay tuned for the new look....



FROM THE HELM

PRESIDENT CARY SMITH

continued from page 1

Planning and hard work is what it takes for CBSOA Training Symposiums. The North/Central One-Day is coming up quickly and we hope many of you will be in attendance. It is not easy to pick a date that works for everyone. All the board can do is its very best everyday for the membership. Plans are underway for the 36th in April, with dates and location to be

Paddleboat Laws

continued from page 1

its Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety, unless specifically exempted," Hoedt said.

The Coast Guard said that because a paddleboard—a large flat board, like a surfboard, which is stable enough to support a person standing while they paddle the device using a paddle in a manner similar to operating a canoe—is “practically capable” of carrying persons or property beyond the narrow limits of a swimming, surfing or bathing area, it meets the criteria to be considered a vessel. “The word ‘vessel’ includes every description of watercraft or other artificial contrivance used, or capable of being used, as a means of transportation on water,” the Coast Guard said.

So far, neither the Coast Guard nor the Department of Boating and Waterways has issued guidelines to law enforcement as to what laws and regulations apply to paddleboards. The Marine Retailers Association of America has issued a dealer alert advising of the Coast Guard’s decision to classify paddleboards as vessels.

“I have been around the boating industry for a long time, and think I’ve seen it all—but this ruling goes beyond even what I thought was an April Fool’s Joke,” Phil Keeter, MRAA president, said in the alert.

confirmed shortly. We need your input; if you have topics of interest or speakers whom you think would benefit the membership, please discuss with any board member.

Training is a huge challenge this year with reduced budgets and POST reduction in reimbursement. We know Cal Boating is working very hard to come up with some solutions, and have been working hard with instructors to make all of the classes stronger and better. The CBSOA was represented in a recent Cal Boating instructor’s meeting in Redondo Beach and membership interests were represented. With members from every corner of the state with different needs on changing waters, it is a true task to make sure all needs are included in training opportunities. It is a difficult environment with

classes being cancelled, funding and budget challenges. We are in uncharted and dynamic waters.

Remember to thank our sponsors. Contact them when searching for products or services, and mention the CBSOA. With their support we continue to grow, improve training opportunities, and stay on the leading edge of boating safety.

As we navigate through the challenges and opportunities in life, it is always nice to know with the CBSOA there is someone to help you through. The network and support of the finest group of boating safety officers is awesome and enhanced by the number of great people who make up membership. It is you the members who are at the helm of the CBSOA, with the board as crew to steer the vessel safely through to the next mission.

As we approach the holiday season we wish you and yours all the best, which you deserve, because you all have a gift to share with the world. Thanks for sharing it with the CBSOA and the boating public. We look forward to seeing you all on the water soon.

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