

# SAFE BOATING

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Late fall of 2002 the TISBA board embarked on a project of understanding the various issues and conflicting ideas surrounding speed on the river and enforcement of laws pertaining to speed. Often related to speed, the subject of noise levels also entered the conversations.

Numerous meetings occurred over the winter with representatives from the Alexandria Bay Chamber of Commerce, Save The River, United States Coast Guard, New York State Park Police, New York State Police, Alexandria Bay Village and Township officials, 1000 Islands International Tourism Council and TISBA.

The discussions produced an improved understanding of not just the issues but also the various roles the different enforcement agencies play. Not only speed and noise were issues

but as you can imagine border crossing procedures also were a critical topic.

Consensus of all the players was that there is a definite lack of understanding of the rules/laws regarding speed, noise, and border procedures. Pamphlets, signage and perhaps press will be necessary to educate both regular users as well as one time users/visitors to the River.

The Alexandria Bay Chamber of Commerce agreed to take the lead role in continuing the meetings and in coordinating various efforts to inform the public. On May 22<sup>nd</sup> there was a 9:00 AM meeting for Businesses of Alexandria Bay to inform them of current border procedures and to provide an opportunity for business owners to meet with various law enforcement representatives so that both have a better understanding of their respective responsibilities and concerns.

On Saturday, June 28<sup>th</sup> Alexandria Bay will have "Border Day" at the town docks from 9:00AM - Noon. The United States Coast Guard, Coast Guard Auxiliary and other law enforcement agencies will be present, with boats and with information pamphlets so the public can view new equipment, meet and talk with representatives of the various agencies and become more familiar with the laws, rules and regulations of the area.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary will be performing complimentary inspections of boats upon your request. Activities,

free pop corn and whatever are planned for your entertainment. We encourage you to attend and look forward to seeing you there.

Consensus was also reached on the fact that the worst offenders of speed and noise were probably 3-5% of River traffic and this small percentage actually causes others to stay off the river. Therefore agreement was reached that law enforcement should enforce the current laws and would be more of a presence during the summer of 2003.

Border crossing procedures has its own article in this newsletter. You will enjoy your summer much more if you stay informed on this subject. The result of 9/11 is that our border will probably never be the same.

June 28<sup>th</sup> 9:00 - 12:00AM - Bay docks on Upper James Street . Bring your family.

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United States Coast Guard Headquarters, Washington, DC (December 23, 2002) -- The United States Coast Guard's Life Jacket Rule went into effect December 23, 2002. In support of the ongoing efforts of the states and Coast Guard to improve boating safety, the Coast Guard is requiring that all children under 13 years of age wear Coast Guard approved life jackets, while aboard recreational vessels underway, except when the children are below decks or in an enclosed cabin.

# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF TISBA

The season is upon us, and TISBA has made meaningful progress since we have last communicated with you. Our challenges remain: to educate those of us who “don’t know” and to encourage adequate enforcement of existing laws to impact those who simply “don’t care”. We have been moving ahead, slowly but surely, with both agendas, but this past summer (2002) saw a far greater interest from new Board members who have dedicated significant time and energy and enabled us to move forward this year: Teddy McNally, Fritz Hager, Trey Vars and Marguerite Sanzone have all made major contributions. Other members of the organization like Stephanie Weiss and Marty Yennawine have also made major contributions. See Teddy’s summary in this newsletter about our Community Outreach effort, which he, Trey and Stephanie have led.

One of the things that is evident to us is that the River is the ultimate “all politics are local” environment, and this summer we will further organize around small “neighborhood” groups, who can help move the agenda forward in their specific areas. We continue to look for volunteers to assume leadership positions around their part of the River, and ask anyone who is interested and willing to spend some time with their River neighbors to let us know.

And, we now have some better ways for you to “let us know”. Included in this mailing is a response envelope which contains a section asking you to let us know if you would like one of us to contact you. Please use this form to renew your membership, as your membership is our lifeblood. And also let us know if you can become more active. Can you help recruit more members from your “neighborhood” and talk with your neighbors about what the specific issues are in your area.

The second – and we hope ultimately more useful method – is to visit our website at [www.TISBA.org](http://www.TISBA.org) and sign on and email us. We want the website to become a useful communication tool between members. Please visit and let us know your reactions. There are also some good links to other organizations and other sites of local interest. Please visit!

## **Hovercraft**

Last summer, many of our members inquired about the Hovercraft which had been operating out of Ganaanoque, and we had begun to devote some attention to the topic. However, we understand that he has moved to Ottawa, and that he will no longer be operating in the 1,000 Islands.

## **A Vote of Thanks and Appreciation**

This past year has brought to closure the terms of three of our most dedicated and longstanding Board members, whose contributions have all been far beyond what anyone could expect. They have been the lifeblood of this organization for many years, and their personal presence will be greatly missed. With great thanks to three fine people who have done so much for TISBA: Bob Kent, Alden Russell, Ginny Sramek.

The ice is gone, the boats are in, and we look forward to seeing you this summer. Please join us or renew your membership, and a larger contribution if you can. We are beginning to move a number of things forward, and your support is critical to us.

Best wishes for a fine summer,

John McCullough, President

## **Thousand Islands Safe Boating Association, Inc.**

Board of Directors

John McCullough, *President*  
Teddy McNally, *Vice President*  
Fritz Hager, *Secretary/Treasurer*  
Marguerite Sanzone  
Tony Mollica  
Trey Vars

Write to Thousand Islands Safe Boating Association, Inc. at TISBA, PO Box 142, Clayton, NY 13624 or email us at [info@tisba.org](mailto:info@tisba.org) Visit our website at [www.tisba.org](http://www.tisba.org)

*Thousand Islands Safe Boating Association, Inc. is dedicated to protecting and promoting safe and responsible use of the waterways in the Thousand Islands Region thereby assuring a safe and quiet environment for residents and visitors.*

*We will achieve this goal by working with villages, towns, Chambers of Commerce, various enforcement agencies, Thousand Islands International Tourism Council, and other appropriate organizations to improve their efforts of informing the public about safe boating practices as well as laws and regulations pertaining to boating in the region.*

# VESSEL SAFETY CHECK

What is a Vessel Safety Check (VSC)? A Vessel Safety Check is a courtesy examination of your boat (Vessel) to verify the presence and condition of certain Safety Equipment required by State and the Federal regulations.

The Vessel Examiner is a trained specialist and is a member of the United States Power Squadrons or the US Coast Guard Auxiliary. They will also make certain recommendations and discuss certain safety issues that will make you a safer boater.

This is not boarding or a law enforcement issue. No citations will be given as a result of this encounter. You will be given a copy of the evaluation so that you may follow some of the suggestions given. Vessels that pass will be able to display the distinctive VSC decal. This does not exempt you from law enforcement boarding, but you can be prepared to make this a positive encounter.

A Vessel Safety Check can be obtained by contacting the vessel examiner in your area via the internet at <http://safetyseal.net/> or by calling the Boating Safety Hotline at 1.800.368.5647 or contacting a Coast Guard Auxiliary member.

## CANADIAN AUTHORITIES ADDRESS NOISE ISSUE

According to a recent article in the May edition of *Cottage Life* magazine, Canadian Authorities have recently addressed noise regulations, and the Canadian Coast Guard issued an amendment to their regs this Winter, specifying that vessels built after Jan 1, 1960, which do not divert their exhaust underwater, must be fitted with a muffler,

which must be constantly engaged when a boat is within 8 kilometers of shore (approximately 5 miles).

First time violators will face fines of C\$100, while repeat offenders can expect to go to court, and face fines which may exceed C\$2,000.

For further information, refer to <http://canadagazette.gc.ca/partII/2003/20030212/html/sor40-e.html>

## BASIC "RULES OF THE ROAD"

### SPEED RESTRICTIONS

*American Narrows Fishers Landing to Sunken Rock Light, including the American Lake of the Isles*

**30 MPH** during the Day  
(1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset)

**15 MPH** during the Night  
(1/2 hour after sunset to 1/2 hour before sunrise)

### Boats over 39 Feet

**9 MPH** (8 1/2 knots) Up River  
**12 MPH** (10 1/2 knots) Down River

*Harbor Zones Cuba Island to Bonnie Castle plus "The Chalet" (on Wellesley Island next to the TI Club) to Hopewell Hall*

**5 MPH**

### Other 5 MPH Areas

- Within 100 Feet of Shore.
- Within 100 Feet of a Docked or Anchored Boat, including fishing boats.
- *At 5 MPH, you will leave almost no wake. 100 feet is approximately 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of a football field.*

## OTHER RESTRICTIONS

### Personal Watercraft

- May not operate within 500 feet of a marked swim area.
- May not be operated from sunset to sunrise.

## NOISE RESTRICTIONS

### Boats may not exceed

- Maximum 75 decibels under power.
- 90 decibels when stationary.
- *Boats exceeding this limit may be ordered to cease operations and may be subject to fines*

## ALCOHOL

- .02% Blood Alcohol Content is the NYS Limit for operating a boat.
- .10% Blood Alcohol Content is the NYS Limit to operate an Auto.
- *Alcohol is involved in 30% of boating fatalities.*

## SAFETY AND COURTESY SUGGESTIONS

**Speed** Speed should be regulated when in congested areas, and – particularly – near swimmers and divers.

**Wake** Please mind your wake near sailboats, skiffs, canoes, kayaks, any boat under tow or anchored and of course if near land or boathouses unless you are in a very open area, away from boathouses, and away from other boats.

**Noise** Please be respectful in congested areas and – particularly – at night. Noise "travels" over the water.

# GOING TO CANADA BY BOAT? RE-ENTERING THE UNITED STATES?

If you are planning to a trip to Canada by boat, you should be informed and prepared about not only how to check in to Canada but also how to re-enter the United States. The following is a very short summary of arriving in Canada and re-entering the US. Please visit our website for a more detailed explanation.

## ARRIVING IN CANADA

- Have proof of citizenship
- Land at a Designated Customs Reporting Station (Many Canadian marinas on the shorelines of the Seaway are designated Customs Reporting Stations and will display a Canadian Customs sign, generally above a pay telephone.)
- Immediately call Canadian Customs (1.800.CANPASS). Be prepared to record the report number that the officer will give you. Keep a log of all entry dates and report numbers as you could be questioned at some future date.

## Alcohol in Canada

You may bring up to 1.5 litres (50 fluid ounces) of wine, 1.14 litres of liquor (40 fluid ounces) or 24 x 355 ml (12 fluid ounces) cans or bottles (8.5 litres/288 fluid ounces) of beer or ale per person who is of the drinking age of the province in which you are entering duty free. The minimum age requirement is 19 years of age in Ontario. Regardless if you pay duty, most provinces limit each person to 9.1 litres (308.3 fluid ounces)

In most provinces alcohol may be consumed on board the vessel if it meets all of the following conditions:

- The vessel has permanent sleeping facilities
- The vessel has permanent cooking facilities
- The vessel has a permanent toilet
- The vessel is anchored or secured alongside a dock

References for this article:

[www.ccra-adrc.gc.ca](http://www.ccra-adrc.gc.ca)

[www.ccg-gcc.gc.ca](http://www.ccg-gcc.gc.ca)

## RE-ENTERING THE UNITED STATES

### US Customs

- As soon as you dock, call US Customs (1.800.827.2851). All passengers, baggage and goods must remain on board!
- Customs can act on behalf of INS, if and only if the boat operator has a valid **Form I-68** for each person onboard.

Where you dock will depend on if all on board have a Form I-68 or not. If all do not, then you must report to the nearest OARS Station. If all on board *have an I-68*, then you can dock at your "home port" and then call US Customs.

### US Immigration

There are two different ways of reporting into US Immigration: **Form I-68** (Canadian Border Boat Landing Program) and **OARS** (Outlying Area Reporting Station). As stated earlier, US

Customs can act on behalf of INS only if all on board have a valid Form I-68. If not everyone on board the vessel has a Form I-68, the you must use the OARS system.

The OARS program uses videophones which boaters use to report to US Immigration inspectors. In Alexandria Bay and Clayton, the OARS stations are located at the town docks.

For further information about the Outlying Area Reporting System or Form I-68, check with the local immigration office located at the Thousand Islands Bridge, 315.482.2681 or refer to [www.immigration.gov](http://www.immigration.gov).

References for this article:

[www.immigration.gov](http://www.immigration.gov)

[www.cbp.customs.gov](http://www.cbp.customs.gov)

[www.ccg-gcc.gc.ca](http://www.ccg-gcc.gc.ca)

## OBTAINING THE UNITED STATES INS FORM I-68

It's not as daunting as it sounds! Simply go down to the US Immigration office at the Thousand Islands Bridge. Bring your passport or some other means of proof of citizenship (with a photo ID - Diver's license is not proof of citizenship). They will run your name through their system, take your picture and your fingerprint. Assuming your name clears, you will be issued an I-68 on the spot. The fee is USD16 per individual with a USD32 family cap. All children under 14 are listed on the parents form (bring your children's ID as well, such as birth certificate). You do not need a boat registration nor do you need to be associated with a boat.

## IMPORTANT BOATING CONTACT NUMBERS

<b>Canadian Customs:</b>	<b>US and/or Canadian Coast Guard</b>	VHF channel 16
1.800.CANPASS	<b>Prescott Coast Guard Radio</b> (cellular-emergencies only)	*16
416.973.8022	<b>Rescue Co-ordination Center (emergencies only)</b>	800.567.5111
416.676.3643	<b>Coast Guard Emergency/Pollution Response Hotline</b>	800.889.8852
<b>US Customs</b> 1.800.827.2851	<b>Provincial Emergency Program</b>	800.663.3456
<b>INS</b> 315.482.2681	<b>Suspicious Activity Hotline</b>	800.866.8477 or 315.782.2112
	<b>US Coast Guard (Wellesley Island)</b>	315.482.2574

Yes, I would like to become a member of the **Thousand Islands Safe Boating Assoc., Inc.**  
(Please make checks payable to Thousand Islands Safe Boating Association, Inc. or TISBA)

- Leader ..... \$250
- Sponsor ..... \$100
- Individual Membership ..... \$25
- Family Membership ..... \$50
- Other ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

My major concerns/interests are in the following areas:

- Noise       Promoting Safe Boating
- Speed       Other \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to help:

- I can contact an elected official     I can help with advertisements, posters and signs
- Please contact me - let me know how I can help!     I would like to be contacted by email.

- New Member       Renewal

WINTER MAILING ADDRESS

SUMMER MAILING ADDRESS

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

Check if New Address

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Thousand Islands Safe Boating Association  
PO Box 142  
Clayton, NY 13624

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PO Box 142 · Clayton · New York 13624