

**Yates County Sheriff's
Official Incident Report
(News Release) Issued June 5, 2015**

NY State Parks Announces Online Boating Safety Education

Information Provided by NYSP&R and Historic Preservation

Since the onset of mandatory boater education for personal watercraft operators in 2000 and most recently the extension of that requirement to all recreational boaters born on or after May 1, 1996, there has been growing support for online boating education.

You may recall that we mentioned that this change was pursuant to the laws of 2013 Ch. 361 whereby the Commissioner of Parks was to create a method of approving internet-based boating safety courses. Since that enabling legislation was enacted, a process has been developed in order to comply with this change to the law.

Although we made mention of this earlier, we now want to provide you with this pre-press release notification of the State's rollout of online boating education planned for this week.

NYS Parks remains committed to classroom instruction and to the support of our certified instructors. We will continue all previous services to you including providing instructional materials at no cost. As in the past, the education page on the Park's website will list all publicly offered classroom classes, in addition to the links for the approved online courses.

We realize that many of you have been dedicated to boater education for many years, sometime decades, and we hope you will continue to offer quality classroom courses. We realize that many of you have strong opinions supportive of in-classroom instruction vs. online learning and we don't necessarily disagree with that position.

We are also sensitive to your concerns as to what effect online education options may have on classroom attendance. Most other states now offer online education. NASBLA statistics show that states with online education continue to draw students into the classroom as well.

If you are interested in taking an online Boater Safety Course please follow this link.
<http://nysparks.com/recreation/boating/boating-safety-class.aspx>

Boat Safely,

Marine Services Bureau

Reported By: Lt. Ed Nemitz

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