



# Boat Ramp News

## Winter 2008



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### Mandatory Boater Education Beginning 2008

In 2005, a law was passed requiring boat operators to take a boater safety education course in order to operate a boat in Washington state. The law applies to operators of motorboats with 15 horsepower or greater.

Boaters can take an education course in a classroom, online or at home. Once the course is completed and test passed, boaters need to send a completed application for their card. The application can be found at [www.parks.wa.gov/boating/default.asp](http://www.parks.wa.gov/boating/default.asp). If boaters already have taken an approved boating class, they only need to send in their application with supporting documents to get a Boater Education Card.

In order to qualify for a Boater Education Card, you must take a course that is approved by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) and the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission. Class information is available at [www.parks.wa.gov](http://www.parks.wa.gov). Questions about the Boater Education Card may be directed to Harbor Patrol @ 206-684-4071.

Not all boaters will need a card. People born before Jan. 1, 1955, are exempt from needing a Boater Safety Education Card. Many older boaters are still getting cards anyway because they boat in Canada and Oregon which do not exempt people born before Jan. 1, 1955.

The card requirement is being phased in from 2008 to 2014. All operators of boats having motors of 15 horsepower or greater are required to have their Boater Safety Education Card with them when operating a boat as follows:

Year	Age Group
2008	12 years to 20 years old
2009	25 years and under
2010	30 years and under
2011	35 years and under
2012	40 years and under
2013	50 years and under
2014	60 years and under
After 2014	All boat operators except those exempted elsewhere in RCW 79A.60.640



Call 206-684-4071 for information on classes being offered in January, February and March by Seattle Police Harbor Patrol Unit at their headquarters on Lake Union!

### Christmas Ship Returns

For over fifty years the decorated Christmas ship has been ushering in the holiday season with lights and song. The Christmas Ship will be making several stops along Seattle shorelines during the month of December. You can enjoy the festivities from the shoreline. Many stops are hosted by local community centers and often feature bonfires, free warm drinks and light snacks. You may also decorate your boat and join the flotilla. The ships came by Stan Sayers on December 2 during their grand opening of the new parking lot. For a full list of stops the ship will be making visit the following website [www.argoscruises.com/themecruises/xmasSchedule.cfm](http://www.argoscruises.com/themecruises/xmasSchedule.cfm)

### Don Armeni

Recent work has been done at the Don Armeni restroom. The work includes a heavy duty top to bottom cleaning and installation of a new ventilation porthole. The intense cleaning and future use of new eco-friendly cleaning products should mean a better smelling bathroom. The work done at Don Armeni is just a small example of work done all over the city to improve conditions for our boating community. More details of recent work at boat ramps can be found on page two.



## 2008 Annual Boat Launch Permits On Sale Now

**Save time and money with a Seattle Parks Annual Boat Launch Permit.**

An Annual Boat Launch Permit (ABLP) can make launching and retrieving your boat easier and faster. The ABLP is a time and money saving way to enjoy any of the five major boat ramps in Seattle.

A Day Use Only permit costs \$96.00 and will pay for itself after just 17 launches.

An annual pass, which includes overnight privileges of up to four consecutive nights, costs only \$132.00. You will recover the cost of this pass after only a few overnight launches.

Both the Daily Use and Overnight ABLP allow a user to bypass the fee kiosk when launching.

The ABLP makes a great gift for the boater in your life. To purchase an annual pass you can visit [www.seattle.gov/parks/boats/motorized.htm](http://www.seattle.gov/parks/boats/motorized.htm), call 206-684-7249 and ask to receive an application by mail or pay over the phone with a credit card.

## Construction Update

**Stan Sayres Boat Ramp** has just finished construction. The parking lot has been repaved and restriped with a drainage water filtration system added. The new lot has more trailer parking spaces than before.

**Magnuson Boat Ramp** begins construction in January and will continue into the spring of 2008. Complete replacement of the aging underwater ramps and modification of docks to improve ADA accessibility are coming. Check our web page for construction updates. Other questions should be directed to Project Manager Garrett Farrell @ 233-7921.

## Boating On the Web

### Seattle Parks and Recreation

[www.seattle.gov/parks/boats](http://www.seattle.gov/parks/boats)

### Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

[www.wdfw.wa.gov](http://www.wdfw.wa.gov)

### Washington State Parks Boating

[www.parks.wa.gov/boating.asp](http://www.parks.wa.gov/boating.asp)

### United States Power Squadron District 16

[www.usps.org/localusps/d16](http://www.usps.org/localusps/d16)

### Seattle Police Harbor Patrol

[www.cityofseattle.net/police/units/harbor.htm](http://www.cityofseattle.net/police/units/harbor.htm)

### Washington Water Trails

[www.wwta.org](http://www.wwta.org)

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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

### Washington State Boating Facilities Maps

[www.rco.wa.gov/maps](http://www.rco.wa.gov/maps)

### Boat Washington

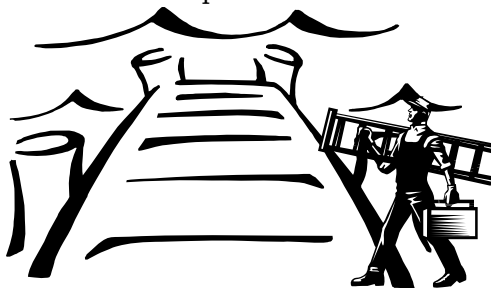
[www.boatwashington.org](http://www.boatwashington.org)

## Additional Resources

All Emergencies.....911  
 Seattle Police Harbor Patrol.....206-684-4071  
 Seattle Parks and Recreation.....206-684-4075  
 Boat Ramp Supervisor.....206-684-7249

## Boat Ramp Fee Increase Beginning January 1, 2008

The Seattle Council approved a boat ramp fee increase to become effective January 1, 2008. The fee increase will effect Seattle's five major all purpose boat ramps including Don Armeni Boat Ramp in West Seattle near Alki; Eddie Vine Boat Ramp in Ballard next to Golden Gardens; Magnuson Boat Ramp next to the old Sand Point Naval Base; Stan Sayres Boat Ramp on Lake Washington Boulevard and Atlantic City Boat Ramp on Seward Park Avenue next to Rainier Beach High School. A one dollar fee increase for daily ramp use will make the day use ticket purchase at the ramp \$6.00 and the annual permit \$96.00. Additionally, the overnight fee will also increase one dollar making it \$8.00 per night. Annual permits with overnight privileges will now be sold for \$132.00 with the 2008 increase. Fees collected are necessary to provide partial financial support for the operations and maintenance of the Seattle boat ramps.



**!!!Don Armeni users...** while headlights are always required during hours of darkness, please use the level staging area for rigging which will reduce the time your headlights are shining into the front rooms of the homes across the street. Just as you enjoy floating on Puget Sound, the folks across the street enjoy their views of Elliott Bay.