

## Buckeye Boater ...continued

### Lifejackets – They Keep You Afloat and Alive!

Having a lifejacket on board your boat doesn't save your life – wearing it does. Lifejacket technology has come a long way. Radical changes in designs and styles make today's devices more comfortable. Sleek, now inflatable versions are the size of a ball or a fanny pack. Mesh and high-tech fabrics are cooler, look nicer, and come in many different colors. Having a lifejacket on board your boat that you like to wear will keep you safer.

### "Dad, Can I Drive the Boat?"

When your child asks you this question, there are at least three things to consider: First, are you willing to let them operate your boat? Second, are they legally old enough to operate the type of boat you have? And third, do they need an education certificate? We can't answer the first part for you, but the chart below breaks down the legal aspects of operator age and education.

Can I Operate This Boat?			
Age	10hp or Less <i>Includes paddle, sail, or no motor</i>	PWC, Jetted, Wakesurfer, SeaDoo, etc.	More than 10hp except PWC
Under 12	YES*	NO	YES**
12 to 15	YES	YES**	YES
16 & up	YES	YES	YES

Child Operators and Supervising Adults MUST have proof of boater education to operate these vessels if they were born on or after 1/1/1992.

\*If under direct visual and audible supervision of person 18 years or older.

\*\*If under direct supervision of person 18 years or older who is aboard the vessel.

### Education Requirement Isn't Just for Youth

Ohio's boater education law applies to anyone who operates a boat greater than 10 horsepower who was born on or after January 1, 1992 – which means it includes everyone who turns 27 or less this year. The law was written to grandfather in a portion of the population, but 60 years from now, everyone operating a boat over 10 horsepower will have to have a certificate. So tell your adult nieces and nephews, your neighbors, and anyone else who you let operate your boat, that boating education isn't just for kids. Options for obtaining an education certificate are found on our web site.

### DID A REGISTRATION LAPSE ON A DIFFERENT BOAT?

The Online Renewal option is available to boats that are up for renewal in the current year as well as the past two years. So if you have a boat registration that expired in 2007 or 2008 that was never renewed, the PIN is still valid... which means you can renew those boats online, too.

### DON'T WAIT UNTIL YOUR NEXT RENEWAL TO HEAR FROM US.

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