

**PENTWATER SPORTFISHING ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
**BOATING SAFETY CLASSES – 2013**

Requirements for boating and jet skis have made attending the class for a Boating Safety Certificate a must for water lovers. Seventy-four people went through the class in 2013 and plans are already in the works for more free classes in 2014. The public is welcome to attend.

Students at the August, 2013, Boating Safety Class



Pictures above are the instructors for the Boating Safety Club: Assistant and Don Van Zile, left, and Officer Tim Simon, Oceana County Marine Officer, right, relaxing after a hard day of training.

**From Don Van Zile**

Date: August 6, 2013

To: Pentwater Sportfishing Association, Inc.

From: Donald K. Van Zile

Subject: Boating Safety Class 2013

In cooperation with the Oceana County Marine Officer Tim Simon, the Pentwater Sportfishing Association, and the Pentwater Yacht Club, two Boating Safety Classes were during the summer of 2013. There were 40 attendees at the July 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> class and 34 attendees at the August 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class. Seventy-three students passed the test at the end of the course and were awarded Boating Safety Training Certificates.

Michigan Law requires individuals born after July 1, 1996 to have this certificate to operate a Boat powered by a motor of more than 6 horsepower. To operate a jet ski the individual if born after December 31, 1978 must meet certain other conditions including having the Boating Safety Certificate and carrying it on board. These laws changed in 2013 and increased the number of individuals seeking a place to earn the certificate. The classes were available in past years in the local schools and discontinued to focus on student preparation for the MEAP test. This further increases the number of students seeking the Boating Safety Certificate and attending our program. The PSA support of the class enables us to offer the class free of charge to every attendee and creates favorable comments from every person who inquires about the class.

The classes have been held every year at the PYC since 1998. We are now seeking approval of calendar dates for classes in July and August 2014. Our tentative plan is for one class shortly after July 4<sup>th</sup> and one class shortly before the Homecoming weekend. The total cost of the support for the 2013 classes, approximately \$100, is less than \$1.50 for each of the 74 students that attended. We supplied soft drinks and bottled water for the breaks, braided ¼ inch line for knot tying, and laminating pouches to waterproof the certificates which must be carried on the boat or jet ski.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Don Van Zile