



RECREATIONAL BOATING ASSOCIATION
of WASHINGTON
Voice of Northwest Boating

Mailing Address - P.O. Box 23601 • Federal Way, WA 98093-0601

November 9, 2010

Commodore Larry VanCamp
Port Orchard Yacht Club

Dear Commodore:

I'd like to apprise you of several important issues which impact recreational boaters and I'd ask that you pass this information along to your membership and to encourage your membership to become more involved in RBAW.

During the 2010 legislative session, at the behest of RBAW and other groups, the Legislature mandated a Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee (JLARC) study. The study's purpose was to calculate the amount of money recreational boaters pay into the State and the amount of money the State puts into recreational boating activities and infrastructure. As you can see from the attached Draft JLARC Study, recreational boaters put \$70.9 million into the State but only received \$54 million in return. Thus, recreational boaters have become a profit center for the State to the tune of \$16.9 million. I'm sure your membership will agree this is an unacceptable situation and RBAW is working to address this inequity.

Likewise, recreational boaters are also subject to the Watercraft Excise Tax (WET) which we pay annually but which other 'user groups' are not subject to. We will be advocating for the repeal of the WET during the upcoming legislative session. We recognize this will be an uphill battle but it is an injustice that should not be allowed to stand.

For over 50 years RBAW has been a respected advocate for the recreational boater in Olympia and beyond. We are an all-volunteer organization that depends on our membership to make our voices heard. Each member Club may send two delegates to our Board meetings which are held at Seattle Yacht Club on the first Thursday of each month. I'd like to urge you to send delegates to the meeting so that your Club can be involved at the policy level and to communicate important issues to your membership. The greater the member involvement the greater the impact we have in improving recreational boating in Washington.

Our Officers and Board members are also available (and eager) to make presentations to your Club. This allows for direct communication between RBAW and its members. If you'd like one of us to make a presentation, contact me at jennerich@mindspring.com with details of date and time.

Effective January 1, 2011, the newsletter of the Recreational Boating Association of Washington will become electronic only, insuring more timely dissemination of information. The money we save in postage and paper can be used to better advantage in our efforts to represent recreational boaters across the state. Also, be sure to check out our newly revamped website at www.rbaw.org

I'd like to personally thank you and your membership for your support of RBAW and to strongly encourage your membership to become more involved. We can't afford to be passive. We need everyone to be involved in protecting our recreational boating lifestyle.

Sincerely,

Ed Jennerich
President