

For Members of the Environment Committee - re HB 6541

I am a boater, I am also a Dock Master, so I see at first hand the need for better boater education.

On the one hand it might be easier to log in and take the safe boating course and get the license. Easy would imply: convenient, it does not imply effective.

I have had to put up signs at the end of our docks indicating north and south slip locations, this is how desperate we are to help the mariner, find his way home!!!

What I am trying to say is we can not afford to stop the more academically rigorous live school -room training for a take the safety course conveniently in your pajamas, perhaps with a can of beer and the game on.

Boating training first occurred because of the rising mortality and injury figures, and the insurance companies were beginning to howl.

Let us not go back to the times when boating was a God-given right and no preparation was considered necessary before taking innocent people on the water with incompetently trained skippers, boat owners and crew!!

Thank you,
Thomas H Thornton
Dock Master
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