



# the LOOKOUT

Voice of the **NATIONAL BOATING FEDERATION**

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Johnnie Owen, Editor

## 2009 NBF SPRING MEETING

The forty-third Annual Meeting of the National Boating Federation will take place April 4, 2009 at Riverside Yacht Club, 95 Wannamaker Avenue, Essington, PA., hosted by NBF Founding Member Pennsylvania Boating Association.

The General Meeting will be preceded by a meeting of the Executive Committee on April 3, 2009, also at Riverside Yacht Club.

A block of rooms has been reserved at Quality Hotel Philadelphia International Airport for the special meeting rate of \$89 per night. Phone 610.521-2400 prior to March 20 for this special rate. Van transportation is available from Philadelphia International Airport, and to and from Riverside

Yacht Club.

The General Meeting will be called to order at 1330; an outstanding keynote speaker has been engaged for this event; all interested recreational boaters are invited to attend. There is no admission charge.

Election of officers and Executive Committee members is scheduled for the General Meeting; the proposed slate of officers and directors is listed in this issue of Lookout. Additional nominations may be made according to National Boating Federation by-laws.

Adjournment of the General Meeting is anticipated at about 1700.

### **The Nomination Committee is proposing the following officers and Executive Committee members:**

President: Thomas M. Dogan, Lake Michigan Yachting Association

Vice President: Fred W. Poppe, Chicago Yachting Association

Legislative Director: Earl M. Waesche, Chesapeake Bay Yacht Clubs Association

Secretary: David J. Kutz, Recreational Boating Association of Washington

Treasurer Everette L. Tucker, Jr. Coast Guard Auxiliary Association

Executive Committee:

Jimmie Homberg, Sea Scouts, Boy Scouts of America

John Onacilla, Jr., Greater Cleveland Boating Association

James Muldoon, United States Sailing Association

Robert Williams Pennsylvania Boating Association

Submitted by Penelope N. Orth, Chairman, 2009 Nominating Committee.

Other nominations may be submitted by the written petition of two directors, said petitions to be received by the Secretary at least ten days prior to the Annual Meeting.

## In Memoriam

**William A. Heider, Sr.**

Past Commodore, Inter-Lake Yachting Association  
Past Secretary-Treasurer, National Boating Federation

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## NATIONAL BOATING FEDERATION

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## Public Access to Waterways

With the threat of rising taxes and the use of eminent domain declarations on working waterfronts, public access to our waterways continues to decline in many areas. A Boating Access forum was held on this where many ideas and possible solutions were discussed. So it was very encouraging to see

Maryland, Florida and North Carolina pass legislation this year requiring that waterfront facilities be taxed based on its actual use and not its potential value. This is a major step forward in preventing small marinas being taken over to build condominiums. It is hoped other coastal states will follow the same course.

## Mumbai Attack Refocuses on Small Vessel Security

The recent terrorist attack in Mumbai, India, has added new emphasis to the DHS argument on the threats posed by small recreational vessels. The terrorists, coming from Pakistan, entered India's waters via a stolen fishing boat and then launched inflatables to come ashore. This caused DHS Secretary Chertoff to comment on the need to "counter the security threat posed by small boats and strengthen the U.S.

Coast Guard." While this incident, nor the attack on the USS Cole in the Gulf of Aden, were in U.S. waters, the assumption is made the same scenario could take place here. The Coast Guard continues to work on legislation for some sort of identification/tracking system for recreational boats. We do not know what sort of requirements this would impose on the boating community.

## AIS Now Available on Recreational Vessels

The FCC has announced that recreational vessels may now carry Class B Automatic Information System (AIS) transponders which transmit navigational information to other vessels similarly equipped. The information transmitted includes your vessel's MMSI number, course, speed, position and other pertinent information. AIS systems have long been in use for large commercial shipping but only recently approved for small vessels. These transponders would provide a significant improvement to navigation safety since they transmit your vessel's status as well as receive and process data from other vessels. The price for AIS units should be between \$500 and \$1000 depending on demand. We hope to obtain some Federal funding support for the boating public. Currently

the ICOM 604 VHF-FM radio has a receive-only AIS capability.

*The AIS system is a remarkable thing, that you really have to experience to appreciate. In my own travels to Lake Michigan from Ft. Lauderdale 2 years ago, I was amazed at the accuracy and depth of information provided by my small self-added AIS black box to my PC-based chart plotter on Hot Tomolly. It literally saved my skin in deep fog leaving Norfolk, we couldn't see the bow from the bridge. It's truly complementary to radar, as the AIS shows at a glance whether the vessel you see is moving, what direction and speed, closest approach, danger zones, etc. Also, it's name and destination were listed, and sometimes cargo. Many vessels were anchored outside the harbor, and it would have been difficult with radar to ascertain that info, and whether they were moving or stationary. - Tom Dogan*