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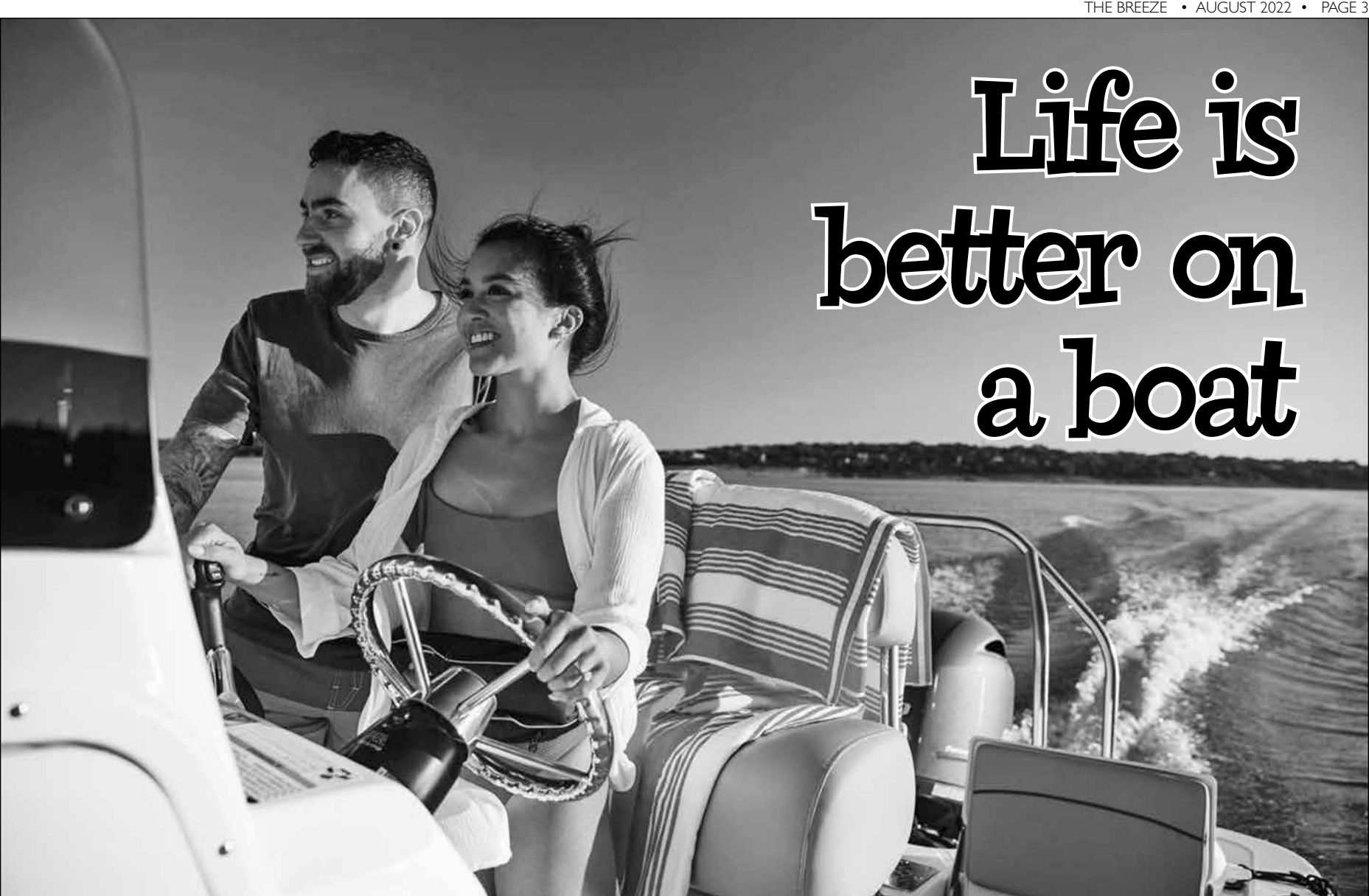
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Life is better on a boat



5 tips for cruising confidently and safely on the water

Spending more time on the water with friends and family? Boating has seen a surge in popularity as millions of Americans realize it gives you the freedom to explore the outdoors and is a fun, relaxing way to escape stress on land.

In fact, boat sales are at near-record highs with an influx of newcomers who purchased their first boat in the last couple of years, according to the National Marine Manufacturers Association. Makes sense! Boating is your vacation on-demand and close to home.

If you're new to boating or an experienced captain still navigating best practices for enjoying a day on the water, remember it shouldn't be intimidating. Understanding the basics on what to do and what to bring will help make you a safer, more confident boater and create lasting memories for years to come.

"There's nothing more enjoyable and relaxing than a day spent on the water with family and friends. Whether you're using your boat for fishing, water sports, sailing or cruising, learning the basic boating essentials will help create a fun and safe experience for all involved," said Ellen Bradley, senior vice president of Discover Boating, a national awareness program and resource hub to help those new to boating get started. "Before you take the helm, Discover Boating is a helpful one-stop resource for everything from finding the boat that's right for you to maintenance checklists and how-to's, as well as winterization tips, insurance and a variety

of boating education topics."

If you're a new boater looking to hone your skills or just diving into the boating lifestyle, here are five tips to improve your nautical know-how in no time to ensure the best possible experience on (and off) the water.

Learn the rules

It is important to have the boating information and certifications you need to be a safe and confident boater. In fact, a number of states require powerboat operators to take a boater's education course and carry a license or certificate proving successful course completion. By consulting Discover Boating's safe boating guide, developing a safety checklist, and obtaining the necessary training or certificates in your state, you not only protect yourself and your passengers but also other boaters on the water.

Preserve your boat

Similar to car maintenance, there are a few basic items that require regular maintenance by the owner, and a few items that require maintenance at routine intervals, which most leave to the professionals. Prepare a boat maintenance checklist that covers everything from engine needs, to cleaning, to electrical systems to ensure your boat has a long lifespan.

Tow, launch, load

Did you know 95% of Americans live within an hour's drive of a navigable body of water? Also, 95% of boats on the water can be trailered by a vehicle to local waterways, according to NMMA.

With a trailerable boat, you can boat on just about any lake, river, bay or inlet. Trailering is great way to explore different

waterways in your state or region, and it's also an affordable way to store your boat. With a little bit of training and practice, as well as a capable tow vehicle and reliable tie-downs for the stern, you'll be ready to cruise into any body of water.

Look for the seal of approval

When shopping for a boat, whether at a boat show, online or at a dealership, always check to make sure it is NMMA Certified. NMMA Certified boat and trailer manufacturers have been independently inspected to ensure they meet strict industry standards for safety and construction, as well as all federal regulations. Look for the NMMA Certified sticker near the helm of a boat.

Visit a boat show

Boat shows are the ideal setting to immerse yourself in the boating lifestyle and provide the unique opportunity to meet face-to-face with and shop a variety of boat dealers and marine product companies all under one roof. Most boat shows also offer educational opportunities - often complimentary - whether you're a seasoned skipper looking to improve your skills or a new boater in need of tips on everything from boating safety to navigation and boat operation. Find a boat show in your area.

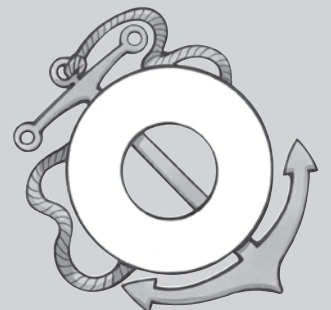
Visit DiscoverBoating.com for resources, storage options, tips and how-to's for getting on the water, boat shopping, safety and more.

(BPT)

The Breeze

Serving the Whitewater Lake Area
A publication of Southern Lakes Newspapers LLC

1102 Ann Street, Delavan, WI 53115
(262) 728-3411



Editor: Tracy Ouellette
Creative Director: Heather Ruenz
Advertising Director: Vicki Vanderwerff
Page Designer: Jen DeGroot

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above: Whether you're new to boating or an experienced captain understanding the basics on what to do and what to bring will help make you a safer, more confident boater.

STOCK PHOTO The Breeze

Life jackets required for standup paddleboarders

Standup paddleboarders in Wisconsin are required to have wearable life jackets of the appropriate sizes for each on board, according to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Those age 12 and younger must wear their life jackets while paddling on federally managed waters.

Wearing a life jacket makes smart safety sense for all paddlers regardless of age or the law of the water.

“The department strongly encourages all to wear their life jackets even though jackets aren’t required to be worn in most areas of Wisconsin,” said Lt. Darren Kuhn, DNR Boating Law Administrator. “Quickly changing weather and water conditions can increase the chances of falling off or getting separated from your paddleboard. Wearing a life jacket makes these situations less likely to end in a tragedy.”

Lifejacket regulations

U.S. Coast Guard regulations require each paddler age 12 and younger to wear their correct-size life jacket when on federally controlled waters. In Wisconsin, federal waters include Lake Superior, Lake Michigan, Green Bay, Mississippi River and the St. Croix River.

While state law only requires the appropriate-size, wearable life jacket be on board with each paddler, the easiest way to carry the life-saving device is to wear it. DNR conservation wardens

will check paddlers for the required lifejackets.

“Make safety a part of the fun,” Kuhn said. “It’s easier and better just to wear them.”

An accident can happen without a warning. The majority of people who drown know how to swim but become incapacitated in the water. Learn more finding the right life jacket on the DNR website.

Paddler safety tips

The DNR offers these safety tips for paddleboarders:

- Stay sober;
- Take a standup paddleboarding safety course through the American Canoe Association;
- Paddle with a pal and let a third party when and where the group is heading;
- Check the weather and know the wind direction;
- Match the outing with skills – steer clear of waterbodies with lots of traffic as waves will make for a bumpy, possible dangerous outing;
- Get a dry bag for energy bars, sunscreen, first aid items, waterproof flashlight, and a waterproof holder for a cell phone;
- Wear a whistle; and
- Wear an ankle leash in the event of falling off.

For more information, visit dnr.wi.gov.



Be smart before you start and wear a life jacket when paddleboarding.

ISTOCK/FOTOGRAFIA INC. *The Breeze*

Stay sober and always wear a lifejacket out on the water

11 people have died from boating incidents in the state this year

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources reminds Wisconsinites and visitors to put safety first by boating sober and wearing a life jacket while on the water.

Nearly 80% of fatal boating incidents involve drowning. Drowning can happen to even the most experienced swimmers. Most people who drown in boating accidents know how to swim but become incapacitated in the water, such as being injured, unconscious, exhausted or weighed down by clothing.

Alcohol use is a leading factor in recreational boating fatalities. If alcohol is involved in your day of boating, have a designated operator. Operating a boat is no different than driving an automobile.

So far this year, 11 people have died from boating incidents, and another 25 died in 2021, according to a news release from the DNR.

Operator inexperience, inattention, recklessness and speeding are the four leading causes of tragic watercraft crashes. Boating incident reports to date for 2022 and previous years are available online here.

The easiest and most important thing to remember is to boat sober and wear a life jackets. Statistics show boaters who wear life jackets and take boater safety courses are most likely to stay safe on Wisconsin waters.

New life jackets are much more comfortable, lightweight and stylish than the bulky orange style most boaters know. There are innovative options, such as inflatable life



Put safety first by boating sober and wearing a life jacket when hitting the water.

MIKE TITTEL FOR TRAVEL WISCONSIN *The Breeze*

jackets, allowing mobility and flexibility for boating, fishing, paddling or hunting and are much cooler in the warmer weather.

Follow the basic safety tips below and enjoy Wisconsin’s great lakes and rivers with family and friends.

The DNR recommends these water safety tips:

- Sign up now to take an online boater education course;
- Always wear a properly fitted life jacket with a snug fit and fastened when on or near the water – life jackets will keep people on top of the water if they walk off an unexpected drop-off, if a wave or current

overpowers them or if they fall out of a boat;

- Enjoy the waters sober and know personal limits – alcohol blurs a person’s judgment, reaction time and abilities;
- River shorelines and sandbars pose unseen dangers – higher, fast-moving water can tax an individual’s boating, paddling and swimming skills; and
- Keep an eye on the weather and let someone know where you are going.

Remember always to practice caution when near or on water, and always wear your life jacket. More boating safety tips are available on the DNR website at dnr.wi.gov.

Area man dies after incident on Whitewater Lake

A 72-year-old Whitewater Lake resident died July 10 after an incident on the lake.

The man was identified as Timothy Glander.

According to the Walworth County Sheriff’s Department, deputies and the Whitewater EMS were dispatched about 3:30 p.m. July 10 for a water rescue in progress.

Sheriff’s Captain Robert Hall said the man had been pulled from the lake by a good Samaritan and life-saving measures were started on the boat.

Hall said EMS took over those efforts when Glander was brought to the pier. He was then transported to Mercy Hospital in Janesville.

Glander died the next day. It is unknown whether medical issues played a part in the death. Hall said the sheriff’s department was waiting on the report from the medical examiner’s office.

Funding restoration work at the tavern

Old World Foundation issues challenge to raise \$35,000

A historic transformation is underway at Old World Wisconsin. A reimagined Welcome Experience will turn the historical site into an unforgettable destination, according to a news release from the Old World Foundation.

The multi-year project is broken down into multiple phases that will move forward as funds are raised. Supporters will have the opportunity to impact this project now.

The chairperson of the OWF Board of Trustees issued a challenge to raise \$35,000 by Aug. 5, to fund immediate needs related to the interior restoration, and/or furnishing of Wittnebel's Tavern.

The tavern was built in 1906 and was relocated to Old World Wisconsin from Old Ashpunn last year. Soon, work will begin on the exterior restoration of this historic building. Funds are needed to complete the interior restoration and to purchase furnishings to restore this building to its 1930s appearance.

The new Brewhouse is now open at Old World Wisconsin. This building along with the historic tavern will immerse guests to Old World Wisconsin in Wisconsin's brewing tradition. In addition to these buildings, a festive outdoor beer garden will tie the Brewhouse and Wittnebel's Tavern together and be a comfortable space for guests to relax and enjoy drinks and food.

Those who donated \$250 or more to help reach the goal of raising \$35,000 for immediate needs related to this project were invited to attend the Sunset Soiree, an enchanted evening celebrating tavern preservation with kindred spirits at Old World Wisconsin. Thanks to two of Old World Foundation's trustees, all donations up to \$11,500 were matched.

For more information on Sunset Soiree or the entire New Arrivals/Welcome Experience Campaign, visit the Old World Foundation website at oldworldfoundation.org or call 262-594-2922.

For information on the 2022 season at Old World Wisconsin, visit oldworldwisconsin.org.



above: Those who donated \$250 or more to help Old World Foundation meet its immediate needs goal were invited to attend the annual Sunset Soiree, an enchanted evening celebrating tavern preservation with kindred spirits at Old World. **left:** The green is seen through the teaching garden at Old World Wisconsin on June 9.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS
The Breeze

Bird requests extension, council wants answers first

By Dave Fidlin
CORRESPONDENT

An app-based dockless electric scooter company is looking to extend its stay in Whitewater. But city officials would first like to have several lingering issues addressed.

At its meeting July 19, the council discussed, but took no action on, the proposed contract extension with Bird.

Bird's existing contract with the city expired June 30, and company representatives are looking to have a new one in place that will stretch through Aug. 30, 2023, with successive options for automatic renewals in 6-month increments.

But during an open-ended discussion of Bird's performance within the city, several council members did share concerns with the arrangement – namely, occurrences of the scooters being placed in haphazard spots.

"They started out very well, I thought, this year," council member Carol McCormick said. "Everybody was obeying the laws, putting them back on racks or putting them off to the side. But I'm seeing it's getting

very laxed right now."

McCormick and several other council members said they have been seeking information for a phone hotline or similar system to air complaints about the placement of the scooters as issues arise.

Public Works Director Brad Marquardt, who has been involved with the contract extension talks, confirmed there is a hotline to call, as well as an email address. He said efforts would be taken to share the communication methods with the wider community, going forward.

For people with the Bird Scooters app, Council President Lisa Dawsey Smith said there is another option available: a feature to share complaints.

"That does go directly to the fleet manager as soon as it's entered, and they have a time frame for which they're supposed to respond to those," Dawsey Smith said.

Marquardt, relaying his conversations with Bird representatives, said the company is requesting an amendment to prior contracts that has been met with reservations: A provision giving the company the authority to operate its service around-the-clock.

Bird has not been allowed to operate its scooters

in the city between 10 p.m. each night and 4 a.m. the following morning, in part because of concerns intoxicated people might try operating them.

Marquardt said Bird does have a feature called Safe Smart, aimed at alleviating such concerns, though he did not recommend it to the council.

"If they wanted to use it, prior to unlocking a Bird, they would have to verify that they could safely handle the vehicle by correctly entering a keyword into the app," Marquardt said.

Giving his view of the proposal, Marquardt said, "I do not find that very satisfying, knowing all they have to do is enter a keyword. I would still recommend we keep the hours as-is for operation."

The Bird extension likely will be revisited at a council meeting in August.

Bird launched its service in Whitewater in August 2021 for an abbreviated debut season. It went dormant late into the fall in anticipation of plunging temperatures and declining rider use.

According to the company, a total of 11,426 trips were recorded in Whitewater last year during the service's initial rollout.



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PONTOON BOATS VERSUS DECK BOATS – Which is right for you?

Pontoon boats are incredibly popular all across the nation, as are deck boats. In fact, these two boat types share many of the same features and advantages, and if you're in the market for a new boat it can be incredibly hard to choose between the two.

So, which will be best for you and your family? Will you pick a pontoon boat, or do you think a deck boat would be delightful? Truth be told, in many regards you can't go wrong either way – both types of boats are loads of fun. But as you try to determine which would be ideal for you and yours, Discover Boating encourages you to consider the following:

Versatility and customization

One of the great things about pontoon boats is that they're available in virtually countless different deck layouts, shapes, and sizes. In many cases you can pick and choose between where you want a lounge, versus a sofa, versus a pair of fishing chairs. You can also choose to add activity-specific features, like a tow pylon for watersports or integrated cooler compartments for day cruising. So, you can

make a pontoon boat just as versatile – or specialized – as you'd like.

Deck boats, on the other hand, are generally fiberglass boats with rigid hulls and decks. As a result, many of the features are molded in and the floorplans usually aren't as customizable. This may seem to put deck boats at a bit of a disadvantage, but there's also an up-side. With the fiberglass construction the builder can mold in things like steering consoles, ski lockers, and seat bases. That can give the boat a very clean look and a solid feel.

Performance and seakeeping abilities

There was a time when deck boats would have been the hands-down winner in this category. Generally speaking, a single fiberglass hull can accept more horsepower and ride through the waves better than a pair of aluminum "logs" can. These days, however, triple-log pontoon boats, often called "tri-toons" are quite common. And having that third log makes a huge difference in a pontoon boat's performance and sea keeping abilities. Today, it's not unusual to see tri-toons with huge

outboards or even twin outboard engines, which go fast enough to whip the hat right off of your head. And they do quite well in choppy waters, as compared to the pontoons of yesteryear.

That said, all other factors (like size and weight) being equal, most people would still say that the monohull deck boats have a bit of an advantage when it comes to handling rough seas. Most also benefit from having less windage, so they may be easier to dock or load on a trailer in a stiff breeze.

Cost of the boats

No matter what your boating budget may be, cost is a consideration most people will take into account when comparing pontoons and deck boats.

In smaller, less expensive size ranges, pontoons usually win out in this regard. There are plenty of relatively small pontoons with low-power outboards, which are very inexpensive. There are some small and inexpensive deck boats, too, but there are far fewer are on the market and foot for foot, the pontoons generally cost less.

When it comes to larger model boats, however, this advantage usually evaporates.

Many of today's pontoon boats are exceptionally well equipped with luxury features, accessories, and powerful engines, and they can get every bit as expensive as a comparable deck boat – sometimes even more so.

The bottom line

So, what's the bottom line? That will depend on how you prioritize the above factors, personally. In some cases the pontoon boat will prove to be the better pick, while in others a deck boat will be the right move. And this is a call that only you can make. We do know one thing for sure, though – choosing either will be a major lifestyle upgrade. Make your final call and then get ready for endless fun out on the water.

For more information, visit discoverboating.com.

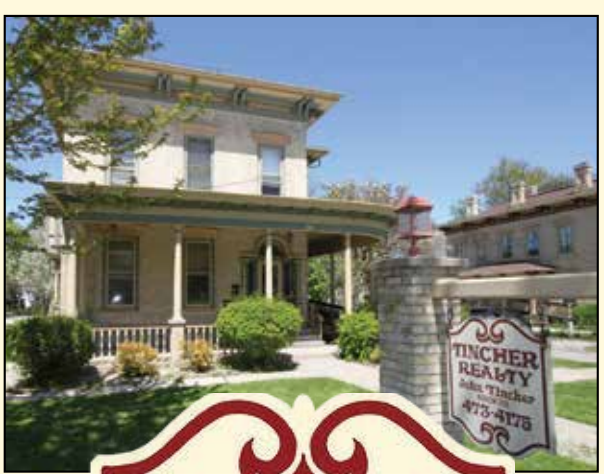
When considering between a pontoon boat and deck boat consider the available versatility and customization options, performance and seakeeping abilities and the cost before making a purchase.



Music by the lake

The Concerts in the Park series at Cravath Lake featured the Piper Road Spring Band July 14. The concert by the well-known band with local ties kicked off the summer concert series at the park.

TOM GANSER *The Breeze*



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Turn to the experts



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Build a fun, stress-free community of boaters

As you've probably come to learn by now, the boating community is just that – a community. Though we're all out there enjoying the fun in our own ways, by ourselves or with our family and friends, boaters share a common culture.

That's why we chit-chat at the marina or boat ramp, give each other a wave as we cruise by, and stop to lend a helping hand whenever another boater is in need.

Part of being a good community member is ensuring that other boaters are safe, as well as looking out for your own.

Sober skippers

When you designate a sober skipper for your boat you're not only protecting yourself, you're also protecting all the other boaters out there. You can even go the extra mile and take the Sober Skipper pledge, and get Sober Skipper wristbands (they're free!) for your marina, to get other boaters involved and aware.

Boaters helping boaters

Remember that like in any good community, as a general rule, boaters are always happy to lend assistance to one another. You should make it a point to offer assistance when you can, and never be afraid to ask other boaters for help.

"Our captains are always happy to talk to people about current conditions, and how to learn what you may not know that you don't know," Sea Tow President Kristen Frohnhoefer said. "Many of our members tell us that joining Sea Tow makes them feel like they have a friend on the water. Our captains are out there all the time, they have the local knowledge, and they're willing to share it."

When we community members all maintain a similar attitude, it helps keep everyone on the water that much safer. So if you notice that a sandbar has shifted or a channel is shoaling up, don't hesitate to share that knowledge with others. And if you're wondering how deep that channel really is, never be afraid to ask.

Likewise, if you have friends or family members who just bought a new boat for the very first time, volunteer to show them the ropes as they begin to learn all the basics of boating and proper seamanship. You might even recommend that as a newbie, they should consider taking either an online or a hands-on training course to help build their confidence.

Life jackets

Of course, making sure the passengers on the deck of your own boat are safe



Boaters share a common culture and are generally willing to lend a hand when someone is in need.

STOCK PHOTO The Breeze

is your job number-one. And while you already know that life jackets play a key role, you may not realize how important it is to have them properly fitted.

"This is particularly important with kids," says Gail R. Kulp, executive director of the Sea Tow Foundation. "Kids grow fast and parents can buy up-sized clothes and coats, but you can't do that with life jackets."

Kulp notes that the Sea Tow Foundation has a loaner program with hundreds of locations and maintains a nationwide map of life jacket loaner stations, so you don't

necessarily have to buy a new life jacket every season as the kids grow, or when you take out one of their friends. It is critical, however, to make sure that the life jackets they're in are properly fitted.

The bottom line? There's nothing more fun than being on a boat, but the one way we can all make boating even better is by studying up on safety and then cruising

with confidence.

So, commit these tips to memory, consider signing up for membership with a boating assistance company, and keep studying up on safety. Before you know it, 2022 might just turn into the best year of boating, ever.

For more information, visit discoverboating.com.

BY THE NUMBERS

Waterfront Homes for Sale in the Whitewater Lake Area

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N7111 Chapel Dr.	\$610,000
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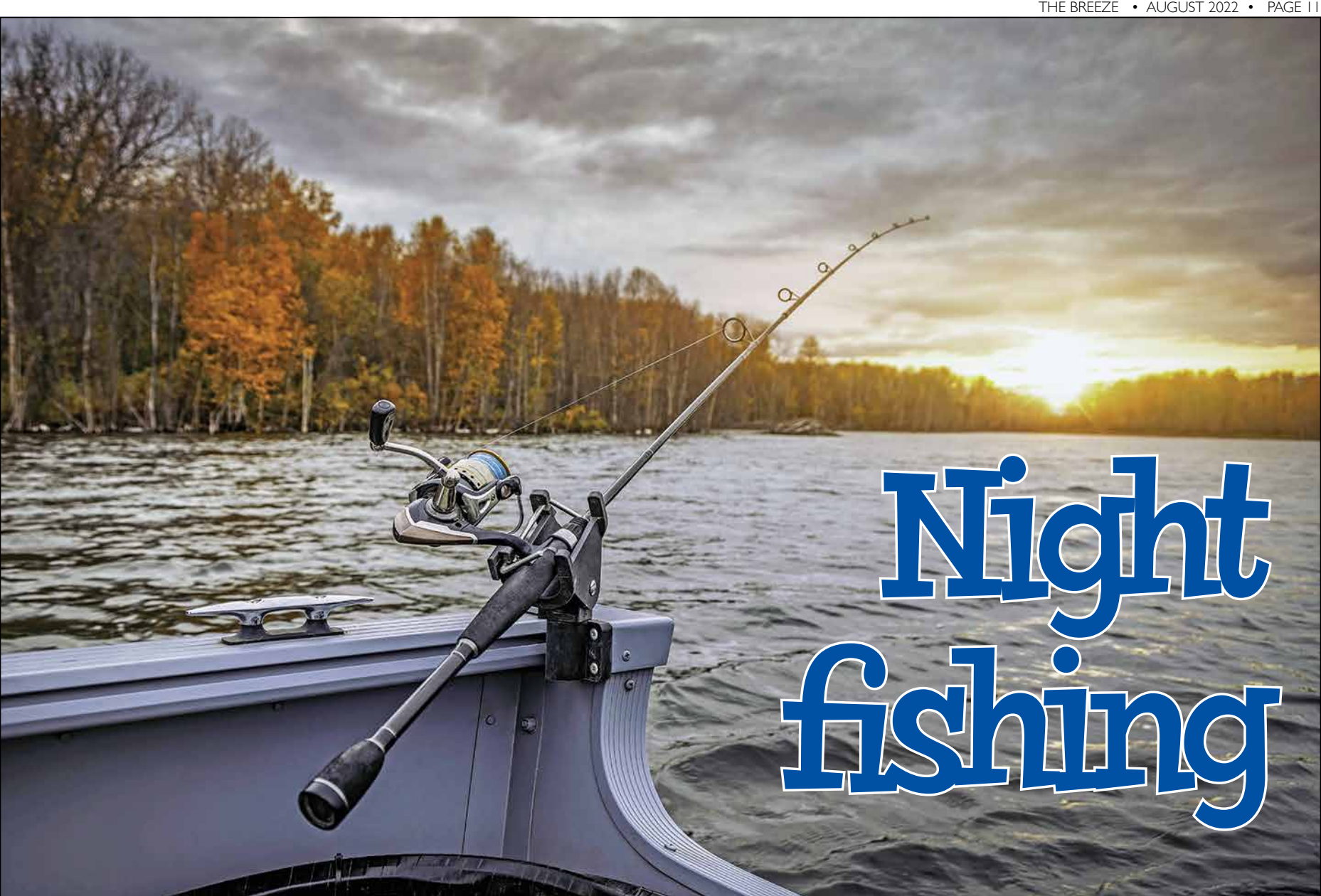
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Night fishing

10 tips and gear for first timers

For both freshwater fishing fans and saltwater fishing sharpies, night fishing is a great angling adventure. Many species of fish in both types of waterways feed best after the sun goes down, especially at certain times of year, and there are times when night fishing makes for nonstop action.

If you're intrigued by the idea of fishing in the dark, check out these tips and make sure to bring this gear. We can't promise you that you'll catch fish, but we can promise that your chances of success will be vastly improved if you follow these tips from Discover Boating.

Night fishing tips

When you go fishing late into the night, the usual basic tips for catching more fish still apply; check out *How to Fish: Fishing Tips for Beginners* to make sure you have the basics down pat. Beyond all the normal items, however, there are a number of additional tips to keep in mind. Here are 10 of the best night fishing tips every angler should know.

Try fishing with bait, and live bait when possible. While it's true that lures can still work at night, when it's dark out most species of fish will depend on senses other than sight more than they will depend on their eyes – just like animals that live on land. Scent, taste, and vibrations are all keys they may home in on. So using live bait that triggers these senses is usually the best bet.

If you do want to try lures, stick with dark colors like black or purple. It may seem counter-intuitive, but these are most visible to the fish at night because they block light from above and create a silhouette in the dark. Also consider using lures with vibrating blades or rattles, which can stimulate senses other than sight.

Fish near artificial light. Artificial illumination created by lights on bridges, docks, or your boat, attracts baitfish and other small critters. Wherever they gather, the predators won't be far behind.

Fish around the edges of artificial light, where it fades out into darkness. Often large predators will prowl around in the dark areas close to the light so they can dart in unannounced, to grab unwary baitfish swimming in lighted areas.

Fish under a full moon. The unusual amount of natural light provided by a full moon allows fish to feed better, and these wild critters are naturally attuned to the cycle of the moon. As it grows their nighttime activity levels naturally grow, too. And when it's full, many species feed like gangbusters.

Don't start when the sun goes down, then give up too quickly. Many species rest after the transition from sunset to full darkness. You'll often experience a burst of action right at sunset, but then find that the fish seem to go dormant for an hour or so. Don't mistake a period of inactivity for an absence of fish and go home, because quite often an area that seemed fruitless shortly after sunset comes alive an hour or two after full darkness sets in.

Fish all levels of the water column, but be prepared to deploy baits closer to the surface than you normally might during broad daylight. While it's not true for each and every species, many types of

fish tend to feed close to the surface when they're trying to find a meal in the darkness because this is where the most natural light is available.

Consider fishing at anchor, since it simplifies things and lets you focus on the fish.

That's not to say that trolling or drifting isn't effective in the dark. It's just that once you're anchored up you won't have to worry so much about running the boat in the darkness, where or what you might be drifting towards, or what the sea conditions and boat traffic may be like. That way, you can pay full attention to fooling those fish.

Consider choosing your fishing spot based not only on the fish but also on how protected the area is and how much boat traffic it gets. Again, this isn't so much about the fish as it is about you, how comfortable you are being on the water after dark, and how focused you can remain on catching those finned critters.

For the very same reasons, be sure to read our post on *Night Boating Tips*. If you don't feel comfortable and safe in the dark environment, you probably won't catch much nor have a very good time.

Night fishing gear

Naturally, all the boating gear you need for being on the water after dark is in order. Make sure your running and anchor lights are working properly, that have a flashlight close at hand, and be prepared for the chilly temperatures than can creep in once the sun goes down. Beyond that, however, there are some additional items you'll find particularly helpful when night fishing.

A fish-attracting underwater night-light can vastly improve the catch. These are often colored (green fluorescent or LED tube lights you lower into the water are

avored by many anglers) and can draw in hordes of sea life from baitfish to squid. In many cases you'll also need a battery to power the light, although some small versions intended for freshwater use are self-contained.

Headlamps or other forms of hands-free illumination trumps flashlights for night fishing. They allow you to see what you're doing while you use your fingers for tasks like tying knots and baiting hooks.

Cast or dip nets can be very helpful for collecting live baits that perfectly match the hatch after dark. In many different fisheries anglers will set out lights to attract baitfish, and then gather their bait on the spot.

Choose rods and reels that maximize sensitivity. Just like the fish, in the darkness you'll need to utilize senses beyond your sight. Fishing with gear that allows you to detect bites via feel rather than vision can be advantageous.

Additional boating safety equipment is always good to have around, but this is never truer than in the darkness. Be sure everyone has a floatation device and a form of illumination, too. Many anglers who fish at night like to attach a waterproof strobe light or a cyalume glow stick to a belt loop or carabiner, so they have an emergency light source and can visually signal others if need be.

For more information, visit discoverboating.com.

Night fishing can be an exciting change of pace, and in many cases, can lead to a far better catch than fishing in broad daylight. So gear up properly and get ready to have an evening angling adventure that's second to none.

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