



Sheriff Dan Bean

Boat Smart, Boat Safe, Boat Legal
Get Your Boating Safety Certificate (BSC)

The Antrim County Sheriff's Office announces its 2013 boater safety initiative. You, your children, grandchildren, friends, and relatives are encouraged to participate.

Three simple and flexible steps for all participants (youth and adults):

Boat Smart - Study the Michigan Course Book or take a web-based course - or both - at your own pace from your own home. For the on-line classes see www.michigan.gov/boating. Course Books are available at the Antrim County Sheriff's Office (Bellaire) for those registered for an exam.

Boat Safe - Take a proctored exam at your local sheriff's office or at one of Antrim County's morning exams shown below. All of these services are provided at **no charge to the public**.

Boat Legal - Many of the boating laws have changed, so you need to be up-to-date with the current law. Of particular importance are new requirements to have and carry a **Boating Safety Certificate (BSC)**:

Boats - Any person born after July 1, 1996, must have and carry a Boating Safety Certificate (BSC) to operate any boat with a motor greater than 6 hp. So this summer, depending on exact birth dates, anyone 16 years old or younger and even some 17 years olds will need a BSC now and for the rest of their lives.

PWCs (Jet Skis) - Any person born after December 31, 1978, must have and carry a Boating Safety Certificate (BSC) to operate any *personal water craft* (PWC/Jet Ski). So, if you're not yet 35 years old, you must have and carry on board your BSC.

Participants who believe they will be ready to take the proctored exam can reserve a spot in any of these three events. Registration is required. You can register by email to BoatSmartSafeLegal@charter.net. Please provide the desired exam date, name, phone, and email address for each participant. You can also register by phone to the respective number listed below. The programs all start at 9:00 a.m. and end at Noon. The programs include registration, local ordinance review, Q&A, proctored exam, and certificate issue - at no cost to the participants.

Boating Safety Exam Schedule

Date	Supporting Group	Exam Location	Phone
June 29 Sat	Friends of Clam Lake & Three Lakes Association	Grass River Education Center 6500 Alden Highway, Bellaire	231-668-9605
July 22 Mon	Torch Lake Yacht Club	Torch Lake Yacht Club 10280 Larson Rd, Bellaire	248-770-5050
July 27 Sat	Elk-Skegemog Lakes Association	Elk Rapids Police Dept. 321 Bridge Street, Elk Rapids	231-947-1619

NOTE: If your schedule does not permit you to attend one of the three events listed above, phone (231) 533 - 8627 ext.1 for an appointment to take the proctored exam at the Antrim County Sheriff Office in Bellaire.

FAQ's:

What is the cost?

You can take the on-line courses at www.michigan.gov/boating for free. Once you know the boating laws, you should take the proctored exam offered by the Antrim County Sheriff Office. When you pass, you will receive the official Michigan Boating Safety Certificate - all at no charge. The card is valid for your lifetime. Many other states honor Michigan's card.

What is the law on having a Boating Safety Certificate?

The laws have recently changed. It's safe to say that all youths should have a Boating Safety Certificate. Specifically, any person born after July 1, 1996, must have and carry a Boating Safety Certificate (BSC) to operate any boat with a motor greater than 6 hp. What this means this summer is that depending on exact birth dates, anyone 16 years old or younger and even some 17 year olds will need a BSC now and for the rest of their lives to drive a boat.

If you want to operate a PWC (Jet Ski) and you were born after December 31, 1978, you must have and carry a Boating Safety Certificate (BSC) to operate any *personal water craft* (PWC/Jet Ski). So if you're not yet 35 years old, you must have and carry on board your BSC to drive a PWC.

My child's family is only "Up North" for a few days. Do they really need this certificate?

If they want to operate a boat or PWC and if a certificate is required, YES - they need it. With on-line courses, they can study according to their own schedules before they travel "Up North". If the exam can be taken with their local sheriff, have them do that. If they want to take the exam "Up North", it's only 3 hours on either a Saturday or Monday morning (see schedule). The rest of the day is theirs to enjoy. If none of the three listed events fits their schedule, then phone the Sheriff Office at (231) 533-8627 ext.1 for an appointment. It's an investment of time that's good for life - theirs and yours!

My grandchildren live in Ohio. Do they need to have a boating safety certificate?

If anyone (resident or non-resident) operates a boat or PWC on Michigan lakes, they are subject to Michigan boating laws. Both residents and non-residents can take the exam and get their own Michigan Boating Safety Certificate.

Does the Sheriff's Office recognize boating safety certificates from other states?

Yes, if it's an official, state issued boating certificate.

What is the exam like?

The exam has 60 multiple choice questions. A passing grade is 75%.

When you're boating, do you need to carry the safety certificate with you?

Just like a boat or PWC registration, yes, the law states that the operator must have the Boating Safety Certificate on board. We recommend getting it laminated and protecting it just like one does with the boat or PWC registration.

I've been boating for 35 years. I can teach my grandkids what they need to know. Why do they need this?

Some boating laws can change each year. They certainly have changed over the last 35 years. Set the example by studying with them and taking the test yourself.