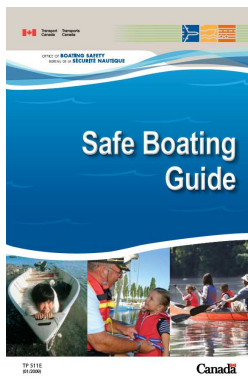


Free Recreational Vessel Courtesy Checks

If you are interested in doing Recreational Vessel Courtesy Checks (RVCC), please read on.

Transport Canada has asked the Canadian Power & Sail Squadron (CPS) organisation to raise awareness of boating safety issues and increase the number of pleasure craft operators following safe boating practices. CPS volunteers completed about 1,000 Recreational Vessel Courtesy Checks in 2009 and CPS is looking forward to surpassing that number for 2010. 600 courtesy checks were completed in Ontario alone.

In a nutshell, here is what a CPS Boating Safety Specialist does; referencing the appropriate section in the "Safe Boating Guide" (determined by the vessel length) the volunteer goes through the list of minimum safety equipment required to be on board as set by Transport Canada and using a Transport Canada form, checks off the safety equipment on board and if everything is there the CPS Boating Safety Specialist issues the boat owner a 2010 RVCC decal.



Since boating laws have changed and fines are heavy we are assisting the boating community to keep them legal and providing them knowledge to boat safely. This knowledge will save the boater from getting a possible fine from the OPP and will enhance their pleasure boating experience.

I did many courtesy checks in 2009 and found that visiting with different boaters to be lots of fun and a very rewarding experience. I was amazed at some of the myths that boaters had about the safety equipment they were required to have on board.

I have taken a Transport Canada course that allows me to do seminars on how to become a CPS Boating Safety Specialist. The training session is a short 2.5 hour **FREE** seminar; open to all CPS members with the Ottawa Power & Sail Squadron interested in providing this service to the boating public.

I hope you are interested in this program.

To sign up please send me an email at pastcommander@cps-ottawa.com to get details about timing of a training session.

Regards,

Gord

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