# Make Money, Retain \$ailors, Grow Member\$hip and Increase \$afety through Powerboating





# CAMP SEA GULL CAMP SEAFARER



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### 4 tracks @ NSPS 2019

They Saved the best for last

- Growing the Sport of Sailing
  - Attraction and Retention of sailors
- Sustaining your organization
  - Make money, keep clients and share knowledge
- On the Water Operations
  - Safety, efficiency and expanded seamanship skills
- Leadership and Human Dynamics
  - Leadership and followership (teamwork)





# What is the mission statement at your organization?

Does powerboating fit in? Why? Or Why not?

We'd love to learn more about the people in the room:

**Community Sailing** 

Yacht Club

For profit

Powerboating only?

Sailing only?

Others?



### Where we are coming from

- Many programs offer both powerboating and sailing among other programs
- Some people are powerboaters only
- Some are sailors only
- Stand Alone Powerboat programming
- Augmentation of existing programs
- Seamanship skills



# We are often so quick to draw sides:



Sailors





**Powerboaters** 

# We are often so quick to draw sides:







**Cruisers** 

Racers!





# Sailors! (according to some powerboaters)

- Why wait for "bad weather to go boating?"
- Presumptuous
- Sailors are always in the way!
- Slow!
- Always asking you "do you know how an airplane wing works?"
- Takes to long
- Boring!
- Hard!
- Disrespectful!
- Expensive
- Make the bridges go up! (the ones with the masts)
- Needy; require help all the time when the wind dies



### Powerboaters (According to *some* sailors)

- Disrespectful!
- Presumptuous
- Always making waves
- Go way to fast!
- No skills needed
  - "Turn the key and go!"
- Stinkpots
- Expensive





### Conflict and tension can lead to declining interest in the long run







### According to the Navigation Rules is this a Sailboat or a Powerboat?







### Navigation Rules Sailboat vs Powerboat?





**Power Driven Vessel -** Any vessel propelled by machinery. This includes any boat that has an engine. Sailboats are considered powerboats when they are being propelled by a motor - even if the sails are up.

**Sailing Vessel -** Any vessel under sail alone. Remember, if being propelled by a motor, a sailboat is considered to be a powerboat.



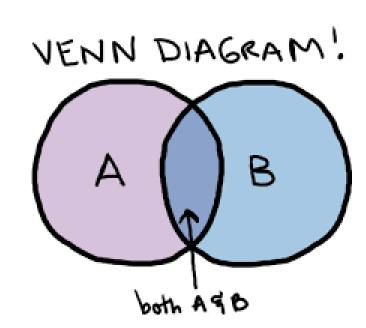
### Let's find some common ground, and everyone can win





# Overlapping skills Where to begin?

- Seamanship
- Knots
- Navigation
- Weather
- Rules of the Road
- Environmental Stewardship
- Teamwork
- Safety
- Boat Handling
- Confidence
- Similar experiences
- Nomenclature
- Love of the water









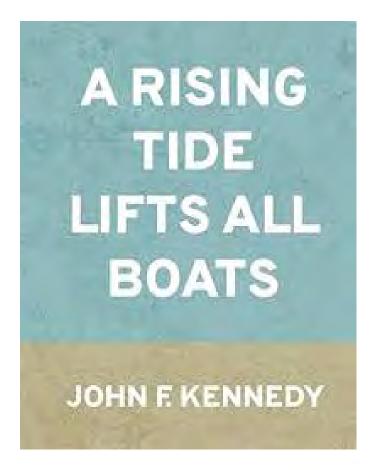
# "Rising Tides Float all the boats"





### Who coined the phrase?







# U.S. Recreational Boating Industry is growing

There were 280,000 new powerboats sold in 2018
There were 998,000 pre-owned boats sold in 2018
13 million registered/documented boats in the US in 2018
95% of boats in the US are smaller that 26 feet
62% of boat owners report a household income of less than \$100,000

- Fresh water fishing boat sales up 2-4 %
  - (fishing is credited as the most popular activity aboard a powerboat)
- Personal water craft sales are up 6-8 %
- New pontoon sales are up 5-6 %
- Wakesport boats; aimed at wake surfing and wake boarding which is very attractive to younger boaters are up 9 11 %
- New cruiser sales (22 to 32 feet) are up 2-4 %

Recreational boating contributes an estimated \$170.3 billion to the US economy

- National Marine Manufacturers Association www.NMMA.org





# Powerboating Thoughts

# Increasing your powerboat programming can also increase other areas of your business or program

- Make Money
- Retain Sailors
- Get different people involved in activities
  - Aka Grow Membership
- Increase Safety
- (Have FUN is always part of what we do)





# Make \$

- Offer Different Courses
- Lessons/Clinics
  - Private
  - Semi-Private
  - Group
  - Custom
- Customer Retention
  - More courses
  - More years
  - A program's version of "accrued interest"
    - Lost customer vs retained customer





### Money Saved

- Better trained staff and volunteers
  - In some cases allows for more efficiency, and perhaps, less overall staff
- More in house capabilities
- More utility with existing assets
- Less damage to boats (both theirs and others!)
  - Less damage = less repairs
  - Less repairs = more time to do other things





- Variety is important
- Cater to different needs
- Cater to different wants;
  - A break
  - A new challenge
  - Something different
- Keeping customers/campers involved in the waterfront in one way or another makes it that much easier for them to try or reengage later
  - Avoid getting turned off from previous activity
- Studies show that it is much easier/cheaper to keep an existing customer than to find/create a new one







- No wind? No problem
- Sometimes poor sailing days are GREAT powerboat days
  - (and vice versa)
- Longer Season
  - American YC does powerboat programming all year long
    - •Winter sessions do tend to be shorter though!
- Mental bridge
  - Some customers have an easier time learning to powerboat as they can connect it to existing skill sets such as driving a car or even a go cart









 why do most people start a sport or a hobby?"

- A.) fun
- B.) to meet people
- C.) it's something to do
- D.) sweet tan lines





Why do most people stop a sport or a hobby?

- A.) Not having fun
- B.) Doesn't think community cares
- C.) Timing
- D.) Injury/Fear
- E.) Not challenging





### Grow membership AKA Squaring the pyramid



- Social opportunities
  - More options can make club more welcoming
- Different clients
  - Perceived and true
  - Different interests
- Different types of events
- Depending on services
  - Varied need:
    - Mooring depth
    - Fuel
- Related activities
  - Watersports
    - Wakeboarding/water skiing
    - Tubing





### Increased safety

- Weak skilled powerboaters can be a hazard to themselves and others
  - Help provide training opportunities
- Conversely; skilled powerboaters can help others be safer
  - Safety tows
  - Rescues
  - Words of wisdom when others need advice
- Training and experience
  - Powerboats are tools, we often think of them as a danger but like any tool, they must be used properly
  - Respect and proper training can set up students for a lifetime of successes







# Increased safety Teach all sailors how to be safe around powerboats

- Many sailing programs don't teach their sailors about powerboats
  - Coach and safety boats are part of the sport of sailing in many areas
- Everyone should know the do's and don'ts
- Related safety equipment
- Encouraging Safe Speeds
- Does your program have a policy about sailors in or near powerboats?
  - Where to sit
  - Where/when to hold on
  - Who can drive and when
  - Good Towing practices
    - Thumbs up
    - Good behavior



### Powerboating is flexible and adaptable

#### Many programs have taken the US Sailing/Powerboating training and made it fit our needs

- Duplication
- Adaptation
- Inspiration
- Creation

#### **Ready to go resources**

- Online and in person
- Subject matter experts
- Guest Instructor Network



# Existing US Powerboating Courses

https://uspowerboating.com/courses/

- Host different courses
  - Bring in NASBLA/State Licensing
  - Power Boating 101 (Intro)
  - Powerboating 102 (Brush Up)
  - Maintenance and Troubleshooting
  - Towing/Water Sports
  - Fishing
  - Navigation to a destination



### Existing US Powerboating Courses

https://uspowerboating.com/courses/

- Safe Powerboat Handling
- Accelerating Safe Powerboat Handling
- Safety and Rescue Boat Handling
- Mark Set and Boat Handling
- Powerboat Instructor
- Combination courses
- Basic Powerboat Cruising
- Inshore powerboat cruising
- And more coming down the pipeline!



# American YC Powerboat Programming

- How to act in/near powerboats
  - New for 2016
- Safe Powerboat Handling
  - Juniors
  - Adults
- Safety and Rescue
- Race Committee training
- Gender specific classes
- Family clinics
- Private lessons
- Semi-private lessons



### American YC Powerboat Programming Philosophy

- Powerboats can be a part of being a mariner
- Bring in new people to the sport
  - Can draw in a different crowd/customer
  - Appears to some to be a "different way to enjoy the water"
- Keep people around longer
  - Variety is the spice of life
- Extend hours of the day on the water
  - Cross training
- Powerboat cruises and meet ups
- Help families connect
  - Powerboating can be both the journey and the destination for multiple generations



### American YC Powerboat Programming

U12 How to act in/near powerboats Being an informed helper (keeping watch etc) 12 - 15How to assist instructors as a JI/Sailing Counselor State license training Safe Powerboat Handling (SPH) RC helpers 15-18 Prep for using boats with less supervision SPH and for some, S + RFuture job training Level 1 Prep Launch Driver Prep





### American YC Powerboat Programming

**Group Lessons** Gender specific Age/Skill specific Family oriented Certification **Duty specific** Mark set S and R Private and Semi Private Time **Focused Goals** Flexible scheduling





### Camp Sea Gull and Camp Seafarer Powerboat Programming







### Sea Gull / Seafarer History of Successful Powerboat Programming

- Safe Powerboat Handling
- Outboard Operator
- a. Dockside Tether Drill
- b. Follow the Leader
- c. Planing
- Outboard Cruiser
- a. Minimum Control Speed
- b. Approaching a Mooring Buoy
- c. Docking and Departing
- d. Steering a Range
- e. Williamson Turn

- Outboard Skipper (A)
- a. Low/High Speed Slalom
- b. High Speed Stop
- c. Aster Slalom
- d. Holding Position
- e. Constant Bearing
- Outboard Skipper (B)
- a. Pivot Turn
- b. Man Overboard
- c. Tow and Be Towed
- Classroom Portion and Test



### Sea Gull / Seafarer History of Successful Powerboat Programming

- Powerboating staff are certified/trained as USPB Instructors.
- They teach campers Safe Powerboat Handling
- They teach sailing staff Safe Powerboat Handling

- WE HAD TO GROW INTO THIS, AND WE'RE STILL GROWING!
- Working towards all sailing and powerboating staff being trained in Safety and Rescue Boat Handling.
  - Our 12 Sea Leadership staff every year are trained in Safety and Rescue Boat Handling.



### Sea Gull / Seafarer History of Successful Powerboat Programming

- Once we had certified staff we were able to teach easily teach customers other than our summer campers.
- Safe Powerboat Handling
- Adults on weekends
- Parents/kids during family camps
- Modifications of the Curriculum
- Outreach programs with local schools
- Regatta volunteers as a pre-requisite to being a safety boat operator
- These programs have just begun and are STILL GROWING!

# Why all the fuss?



#### **Better Trained Powerboaters**

- Better Trained Race Committee
- Better Trained Yachters
- Better Trained Coaches
- Better Trained Safety and Rescuers
   Safer sailors

#### **Happier Sailors**

- More efficient Racing
- Everyone is safer on the water
- More efficient practice sessions





# Time Check and Q and A:





# Powerboating and sailing are complimentary



# Increase your powerboat programming and you will increase your sailing #s as well!

- Make Money
- Retain Sailors
- Grow Membership
- Increase Safety
- (Have FUN is always part of what we do)



### Share the water, the opportunities and the fun!







### Thanks for joining us!





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# **Your Opinion Matters**

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