



RBOC
Protecting your boating interests.

925 L Street • Suite 220
Sacramento CA 95814
916.441.4166

www.rbo.org

KEY ISSUE OVERVIEW

February 3, 2011

www.rbo.org

Linda Bendsen
President

Cleve Hardaker
Vice President - South

Jack Michael
Vice President - North

Bob White
Secretary - Treasurer

Anne Sacks
Past President

Legislative Advocates
Jerry Desmond
Executive Vice President

Jerry Desmond, Jr.
Director of
Government Relations

RBOC Installs 2011 Officers

Recreational Boaters of California installed its 2011 Officers at our annual Board of Directors Meeting held January 20 in Marina del Rey. This year's officers are:

President - Linda Bendsen of Suisun City
Vice President-South - Cleve Hardaker of San Diego
Vice President-North - Jack Michael of Modesto
Past President - Anne Sacks of Venice
Treasurer - Bob White of Palos Verdes Estates

California Legislators Working Towards Early Action on State Budget

RBOC is active in the State Capitol as the Legislature conducts budget subcommittee hearings in January and February. These hearings are in response to Governor Jerry Brown's proposal that the state act now to accomplish \$12.5 billion in cuts and to place an extension of previously-enacted tax increases on the state-wide ballot for voter approval in July.

Decisions made in the state budget impact the utilization of boater fees and taxes for numerous programs and services including boating infrastructure and access, law enforcement, education, abandoned vessel abatement, invasive species infestation prevention, and pollution prevention.

RBOC Names Assembly Member Jim Silva our "2010 Boater of the Year"

RBOC has named Assembly Member Jim Silva [R-Huntington Beach] as the recipient of the organization's Boater of the Year Award for 2010. The Assembly Member is being recognized for his strong leadership throughout last year in response to the State Water Board proposal to impose an onerous and expensive new permit requirement on marinas and clubs along the California Coast.

RBOC Analyzing New Legislation

The RBOC Legislative Committee and our professional legislative advocates are reviewing all the bills that are being introduced in the State Capitol and by the February 18 bill introduction deadline will have analyzed approximately 2,500 new proposals. They are also working on bill proposals that we identify prior to introduction, providing input and suggestions early-on in the process. Bills could be introduced to increase boat registration fees and to impose some form of boat operator certification.

RBOC Legislative Day - April 6

The voluntary, 18-member RBOC Board of Directors will be conducting its annual "Legislative Day in the Capitol" on Wednesday, April 6. Directors will meet with dozens of legislators, lobbying the key legislative and regulatory issues for the boating community.

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Boater Access

Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta - As the Delta Stewardship Council proceeds with scoping meetings on the development of the Delta Plan, and receives public comments, RBOC is re-iterating and reinforcing our previously-communicated position urging that navigable boating of the Delta waterways in the Delta be sustained, that boating access to Delta waterways be retained, and that the mitigation for any physical barriers - such as gates - that may be placed across any existing Delta waterways include boat locks that are constructed, maintained and operated at no cost to recreational boaters.

Channel Islands Harbor - RBOC is urging the U.S Army Corps of Engineers to take action to ensure that both public hearings and an environmental impact statement are provided for the significant Victoria Public Boat Launch in Channel Islands Harbor, and that this occur prior to a decision to approve the permit for reconstruction of the launch. The public launch ramp is an important access point for the recreational boating community, and it is essential that hearings be held and an environmental impact statement is provided.

Coastal Marina Permit

RBOC continues to advocate that the State Water Resources Control Board work with the boating community to pursue a fact and science-based approach that first identifies and then addresses pollution in marinas that is determined to be attributable to recreational vessels and marina operations.

RBOC was quite concerned when the Board in 2010 proposed a broad, burdensome, and costly permitting program for marinas and clubs along the California coastline. The boating community is engaged with the Board, which has temporarily suspended the proposal, as it considers alternative regulatory and non-regulatory approaches to coastal water quality issues.

State Parks Funding

RBOC continues to be engaged as state policy makers attempt to address the fiscal challenges in maintaining the state's parks that are enjoyed by many boaters. Closures of state parks may be considered within the state budget.

The proposal to increase motor vehicle registration fees for State Parks [Proposition 21] was defeated on the November 2010 ballot by 14 percentage points, with 42.7% voting for the proposition and 57.3% voting against the proposal.

Prop 21 would have added an \$18 annual surcharge to the amount paid when a person registers a motor vehicle. The revenues would have provided funding for state park and wildlife conservation programs. Vehicles subject to the surcharge would have had free admission and parking at all state parks. RBOC did not become involved in Prop 21.

Ethanol

RBOC is urging President Obama to place "science first" before allowing E-15 in the nation's gasoline supply. California boaters should visit the BoatUS website www.boatus.com/gov to keep up-to-date as Boat U. S. continues its leadership role in advocating boater interest in this area. RBOC has issued a special Boater Brief with critical information for California boaters: http://www.rbo.org/pdf_documents/RBOCSpecialBoaterBrief-Ethanol_000.pdf

Visit RBOC on-line at www.rbo.org for the latest updates, press releases, calls-to-arms, and reports on government relations issues impacting the recreational boating community.

Recreational Boaters of California [RBOC] is the nonprofit governmental advocacy organization that works to protect and enhance the interests of the state's recreational boaters before the legislative and executive branches of state and local government. RBOC is in its 42nd year as a statewide organization, and since 1968 it has continued its commitment to promoting the enjoyment, protection, and responsible use of our waterways.