

WASHINGTON BOATING ALLIANCE **Winter 2008**

Your officers of The Recreational Boating Association of Washington are happy to announce the founding of the **Washington Boating Alliance** (WBA).

The **Washington Boating Alliance** is an umbrella organization created to provide a coordinated approach to the interface several organizations and governmental agencies that affect the boating world in the Northwest.

The founders of the **Washington Boating Alliance** include **RBAW**, The Northwest Marine Trade Association, Northwest Yacht Brokers Association, Puget Sound Anglers, Coast Guard Auxiliary, Northwestern Boating Council, Washington Water Trails and Whitewater Kayakers, U.S. Power Squadrons and others, as well as individual boaters, yacht clubs, and businesses plus several members of the boating media. State Agencies such as State Parks Boating Programs, the RCO, the DNR, Washington Public Ports, and the WDFW are willing partners in the Alliance too and attend our meetings.

As such, our constituents are the 285,000+ boaters of the state who pay in excess of \$17 million annually in the Boating Excise Tax most of which goes to the state general fund. In addition, we have a boating community that pays \$100 million annually in fees and taxes, a boating industry that has an economic impact on the state of \$4.1 billion dollars annually, a workforce ranked 7th in the nation in number of employees, and a boating industry that ranks 6th in the nation in the number of businesses.

The Washington Boating Alliance will permanently function to create consensus opinions to better accomplish legislative missions to improve funding for boating programs and watchdog all forms of government activity that may affect boating.

RBAW 2nd VP Ed Jennerich has taken the lead for WBA with the newly formed Puget Sound Partnership and with meetings to discuss environmental measures as they might affect boating. We have targeted strategies for the 2009 State Legislature and have met over the summer and fall to implement the necessary Bills.

As you know, RBAW has historically been the Boaters Voice in Olympia, however putting ALL the boating organizations under one umbrella greatly strengthens our many common goals that will serve our boaters better.

Any interested RBAW members willing to work with us in the Alliance, are surely welcome to do so. Contact DavidKutz@aol.com.