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NEWSLETTER · MAY 26, 2017

Fuel Dock // 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Boat Rentals // 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

7 DAYS A WEEK

## **New Laws for Nevada Boaters**

Nevada has passed new regulations, which may affect boaters on Lake Tahoe.

It is now illegal to have the bilge plug in while transporting a boat in Nevada. The purpose of this law is to ensure that any water left inside the boat can drain during transport and will aide in efforts to abate the spread of invasive species. Local agencies, as well as the state of California, are thinking of implementing a similar law, as it is an important component in keeping boats clean, drained and dry.

Nevada is also requiring that all watercraft capable of retaining water are required to purchase and display an AIS Decal. This includes motorized and non-motorized watercraft, even if the boat owner is from another state. Motorized boats with California registration are exempt from this law on the interstate waters of Lake Tahoe and Topaz Lake.

## **Mandatory Boater Safety Education**

Beginning in 2018, the Division of Boating and Waterways will implement a program of boat operator licensure. All drivers of vessels propelled by an engine, regardless of whether the engine is the principal source of propulsion, will be required to carry a California Boater Card as proof that they have taken and passed a state approved boater safety examination. Approved examinations will be available online and will cost approximately \$30. There is a one-time card application fee of \$10; once issued, the card remains valid for a boat operator's lifetime and there is no renewal required. Check with your boat insurance as some companies will be offering a discount to those who have acquired their Boater Card.

Not everyone on the water will need a Boater Card. Those exempt from the program include: operators of rental boats and non-motorized boats, residents of another state using California waters no more than 60 days and are compliant with their state's requirements, and those operating a vessel while under the direct supervision of a person 18 years or older who is in possession of

a Boater Card. There are other exemptions based on prior certifications and licensure that can be found at www.CaliforniaBoaterCard.com

The commencement of the process of obtaining the vessel operator card will be subject to age guidelines. *Please see the chart below.*\*

This program is being implemented to promote boating safety education and awareness in California. Many other states have already put boating licensure into practice. You can read the new policy in its entirely at www.California-BoaterCard.com.

January 1, 2018	Persons 20 years of age or younger
January 1, 2019	Persons 25 years of age or younger
January 1, 2020	Persons 35 years of age or younger
January 1, 2021	Persons 40 years of age or younger
January 1, 2022	Persons 45 years of age or younger
January 1, 2023	Persons 50 years of age or younger
January 1, 2024	Persons 60 years of age or younger
January 1, 2025	All persons regardless of age



Lake Tahoe Natural rim 6,223' Elevation 6,228.22' | Elevation in 2016 6,223.8

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## Water Levels Spring 2017

After an amazing winter of record rain and snowfall, Lake Tahoe has risen more than four feet since January 1st. This is an increase of about 135 billion gallons of water. Officials say there is at least four feet of water stored in the remaining snowpack surrounding the Tahoe Basin. The spring temperatures will have a large impact on the rate of snow melt and additional water flow into area lakes and rivers.

We are hoping for moderate spring and early summer temperature rises so the snow melts at a steady rate in order to regulate increased water flow into the already impacted area waterways.

Over the past few weeks, water release levels at the dam in Tahoe City have ranged between 1300 and 2000 cubic feet per second. When combined with the snow runoff and outlets of other area lakes — Donner, Boca and Stampede — this water flow increases downstream in Farad, Nev., to levels between 5000 and 6000 cubic feet per second. Thus far, flooding along the river has had minimal impact; however, gage heights of the river have been edging close to flood stage levels from Tahoe City to Farad and into Reno.

## CAUTION: OBSTACLES IN WATER

PLEASE BE EXTRA CAREFUL DRIVING ON LAKE TAHOE THIS SUMMER.

After having a record-breaking winter, the water is flowing very high in area creeks and streams, which has washed a lot of tree debris into Lake Tahoe. Don't be surprised if you see a tree floating in the water! And even though the lake level is high, those rocks that were sticking out of the water these last few summers are now hidden just below the surface. Be looking for these obstacles in the water, especially close to shore.