

Opportunities To Make Cruising Easier

As part of the membership informational meetings we talk about several permits and memberships that are available to boaters. We thought it might be good review for our entire club.

1. After boating in this area, one is eventually ready to head to Canada and even further north. Since all persons coming into the U.S. are subject to Immigration and Customs inspection, there are two permitting tracks that you might want to consider to ease your travel from Canada: the NEXUS program and Form I-68. Which one to choose?

<http://www.cbp.gov/travel/pleasure-boats-private-flyers/pleasure-boat-overview>

- a. **NEXUS** is a joint program with Canada that allows pre-screened, approved travelers faster processing both entering Canada and returning to the US. You can use it on your boat and also by car. It is an integrated program with one application and fee submission of \$50 and it is good for five years. Each person must apply on line and be interviewed in person at Boeing Field in Seattle or at Blaine (our two closest). This program is nice because you only have to do it every five years and it is a little less expensive. It allows you to call by phone when crossing the border on your boat and get clearance often without stopping at a point of entry when entering the US. Entering Canada, you have to make a brief stop at an entry port.

<http://www.cbp.gov/travel/trusted-traveler-programs/nexus>

- b. The U.S. government's **I-68 (Canadian Border Boat Landing Permit)** allows both Canadians and Americans entering the U.S. on a boat to by-pass inspection. You must still "check in" by phone and everyone on board must have a valid I-68. The fee for an individual Form I-68 is \$16 and is valid for one year. There is a family cap of \$32, but each member of the family 14 years or older must obtain a separate form I-68. To get the I-68 form, you need to schedule an appointment with an I.N.S. officer. His office is located on the second floor of the Port Townsend Post Office. The office hours are Mon-Fri 8-4 but he can often be out at the airport or port so call for an appointment or information at 385-3777. <http://www.cbp.gov/travel/pleasure-boats-private-flyers/cbbi>

- c. In addition, boats over 30 ft. will need to get a Customs decal for entering the US. It costs \$27.50 per year (Jan.-Dec.) I.N.S. prefers that you establish an account on line. Information and brochures are available at the Port Townsend office.

<https://dtops.cbp.dhs.gov/>

2. Another program of interest is the **Washington State Parks Moorage Permits**. Fees at the state marine parks are charged from 1:00 pm – 8:00 am usually year round. You can pay daily at \$.70 per foot or get an annual permit for \$5.00 per foot – minimum of \$60. You may purchase an annual permit at Fort Flagler Park Office. You need your registration, boat name, and size. www.parks.wa.gov/boating/moorage/

3. Finally, we want to mention the **Recreational Boating Association of Washington**. This organization is the boat owners lobbying group with the state, and provides members with a flow of information about issues affecting boating. Individual membership dues are \$20 year and provide discounts at Fisheries Supply in Seattle as well as other businesses. PTYC does pay dues each year as a club, but we have found that being individual members is beneficial too. www.rbaw.org