



OUTDOORS COMMENTARY

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By ERNIE COWAN

Safe boating

Boaters are being reminded that next week is National Safe Boating Week and all captains and crew should review boating safety basics. On average, 700 people die in boating-related accidents every year. In California alone, the U.S. Coast Guard reported 601 boating accidents in 2007, the second highest in the nation.

The essentials of boating safety include brushing up on the safety basics, wearing properly fitted life jackets, telling someone where you are going and how long you will be gone, avoiding alcohol, and learning to swim.

As part of Boating Safety Week, MetLife Auto & Home offers a free boating safety guide, endorsed by the U.S. Coast Guard, with tips and tools for water safety. Younger sailors can also learn boating safety with a coloring and activity book that features the Peanuts gang. Both are available by calling (800) 638-5433.

Ernie Cowan is the outdoor writer for the North County Times. If you have a story of interest, call (760) 518-8050, or e-mail ernie@packtrain.com.