



MISSISSIPPI RIVER PROJECT QUINCY RANGER OFFICE

217/228-0890

email:

Dennis.J.Franks@mvr02.usace.army.mil

Samuel.E.Adcox@mvr02.usace.army.mil



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

Hello! Spring is just around the corner!

Now that the ice has left the river, so have most of the eagles. Eagle numbers will continue to dwindle as they make their way north. If you would like to see this winter's lock and dam eagle counts visit: www.missriver.org and click the Bald Eagle Days link. Our view of eagles on the river will now be replaced by other migrating waterfowl using the Mississippi River Flyway to find their nesting areas. Waterfowl viewed along the Mississippi River every spring include Lesser Scaups, Greater Scaups, Ruddy ducks, Coots, Buffleheads, Canvasbacks, Mallards, White Pelicans, Double-crested Cormorants, and Grebes. Towboats will also be heading north by mid-March, keep an eye on their locations using the NIC ([Navigation Information Connection](#)) vessel locator.

Boat Safety Classes Offered

Call to sign up now!

Are you a new boater who is a bit intimidated by the Mississippi River? Are you a family that enjoys weekend boating adventures while recreating and relaxing? Maybe you are a seasoned boater who would just like to brush up on your safe boating knowledge and take advantage of the possible discount on your boat insurance.

If you fall into any of these categories or are interested in learning more about boating skills, regulations, and how to navigate the locks, the Corps of Engineers encourages you to sign up for a free Safe Boating Class. This is an IL. DNR Safety Education class and is required for all boaters between the ages of 12-18, to operate a vessel on their own. The eight-hour course will be offered by Corps of Engineers Park Rangers at the Quincy Boat Club.



Classes will be taught on **April 17, June 19, and July 24**. The class will run from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. A one-hour lunch break is provided but the meal is on your own. For individuals not able to commit to a one day class we will be offering an evening split class on **May 18 – 19**, class will run from 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm each night, attendance is required both nights to complete the course.

If these dates don't work for you an additional class is being offer on **May 8** at the Twin Oaks Boat Club. The class will run from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Instruction for this class will be provided by certified IL. DNR Volunteer Instructors.

Pre-registration is recommended, space is limited, and the classes fill quickly. To register, contact the park rangers at (217) 228-0890 or call IL. DNR Master Volunteer Instructor Ron Cook at (217) 936-2712.

Courtesy Vessel Inspections

US Coast Guard Auxiliary along with the Corps of Engineers Park Rangers will be offering Courtesy Vessel Inspections this spring. This is the best time to get your vessel's safety equipment inspected and find out what needs repaired or replaced, before you go boating. These courtesy safety inspections are free and a great way to avoid potential embarrassing and costly citations once the vessel is on the water. Check out the following website for additional information concerning vessel safety inspections and required equipment. http://www.safetyseal.net/what_is_vsc.asp. **Remember, if the vessel is on land there's no violation!**

Courtesy Vessel Inspection dates are: Quincy, IL. May 15 at Kesler Park; LaGrange, MO. May 22 near the boat ramp; and Hannibal, MO. June 5 near the boat ramp. Hours for all inspections will be from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm. For additional information contact USCG Aux. [Bob Crockett](#) at (217) 222-4467, USCG Aux. [Klaus Stendebach](#) at (573) 221-5212 or the Corps Park Rangers at (217) 228-0890.

Sunset Cruise

The "Sunset Cruise" is an all-volunteer event, which involves taking Quincy/Adams County senior citizens, shut-ins, and disabled on a leisurely evening cruise on the Mississippi River. This event has increased in popularity each year. The 2004 Sunset Cruise is scheduled for August 10, with a rain date on August 17. Once again, we are asking that you open your hearts and help us with this year's event. As you are well aware, without events of this type, these area citizens would not have an opportunity to enjoy the Mississippi River or the pleasure of a simple boat ride.

Volunteers are needed to assist with the loading and unloading of passengers, paperwork, as well as boats w/operators. Registration of boats prior to the event is extremely important as passenger space is dictated by the number of registered boats. Thanks to all the volunteers that assisted with this event in previous years. We hope that we'll see you and possibly some new volunteers (bring a new volunteer) for the 2004 Sunset Cruise. For additional information and volunteer registration contact the Corps Park Rangers at (217) 228-0890.

River Information

With the northern snows melting and the spring rains falling; boaters always need to know about current and projected river conditions. The Corps has a website where you can monitor these river conditions and get the latest information. The site also provides historical river information, especially useful when trying to compare different years and seasons. Checkout the website at <http://water.mvr.usace.army.mil>

Navigation Charts are very useful for boaters especially when traveling in unfamiliar waters or looking for special backwater areas for fishing. The Upper Mississippi River Navigation Chart is like a road atlas for the river and covers the river from Minneapolis, MN. to the confluence of the Ohio River. The chart identifies the navigation channel, islands, location of wing dams, etc. The latest charts available were updated in 2001. These charts can be purchased by calling the Mississippi River Visitor Center at 309/794-5338, the total cost is \$36.50 and includes a set of the charts and a CD version (price includes shipping, handling, and tax). If you need information on a particular section of the river and don't need the whole book you can log on to our website at www.mvr.usace.army.mil/NavCharts and download the specific map for your needs.

Navigation Charts for the Illinois River are also available for purchase by calling the Mississippi River Visitor Center, the total cost is \$18.50. These charts can also be downloaded from the above website.

New boating Laws

Illinois

A new law went into effect on **Jan. 1st, 2004** bringing tougher penalties for boating and snowmobiling under the influence in line with the same offenses committed when driving an automobile.

The new law expands the type of illegal substances covered by boating and snowmobiling under the influence to include intoxicating compounds. These are substances ingested by drinking or inhaling such as acetone or dichloro-ethane found in industrial solvents.

The law also increases to a class 4 felony the charge for operating a boat or snowmobile while under the influence during the period when an individual's operating privileges already are suspended for previous violations.

For a complete description of the new law and penalties check the IL. DNR website at <http://dnr.state.il.us> Click on press releases, and then click on 2003 press releases. This specific press release is dated December 31.

Missouri

Missouri boat operators born after 1984 must take a boating safety education course that is approved by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA). The law further requires boaters of any age convicted of certain offenses such as Boating While Intoxicated and Reckless and Negligent operation to take a course and not operate a vessel until the course is passed and recorded with the Water Patrol.

Operators that fall under the requirements will have to carry onboard a card issued by the Water Patrol proving they have met the requirements of the law. **This law goes into effect January 1st, 2005.** There are several methods in which an operator can take the approved courses. The following is a list of those methods.

Order an online course, www.mswp.state.mo.us and follow the tabs.

Call 1-800-830-2268 to order a home study course.

Take an approved course from another state.

Take a NASBLA approved U.S. Coast Guard or U.S. Power Squadron course.

Take an in-class course taught by Water Patrol Officers given in the Fall, Winter or Spring.

Infant and Youth PFD Loan Program

Have friends or relatives visiting and you need an extra PFD (life jacket) for the kids! Don't rush out and make a quick purchase; stop by the Marina Ranger Building or the Gas Dock and take advantage of the infant and youth PFD loan program. A limited number of infant and youth PFD's are available free of charge for a daily loan. All you need is your driver's license to check-out a PFD and it's yours for the day. All we ask is that you return the PFD when your boating day is over. This PFD Loan Program has been coordinated between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mississippi River Rangers and the Quincy Park District. **Make your boating experience safe for everyone and take advantage of this free program!**

J&J Marine and the Quinsippi Yacht Club Donates Equipment

On July 11th, 2003 J&J Marine and the Quinsippi Yacht Club took steps to promote and improve boating safety on the Mississippi River. This was in the form of equipment donated to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mississippi River Rangers at Quincy, IL.

The safety items donated included: a cordless bilge pump, battery powered emergency jump starter, portable navigation lights, paddle, hand-held spotlight, various fuses and light bulbs. Those items donated have a retail value of approximately \$250.00.

The purpose for this donation is to promote safety by the “loan” of this equipment to boaters who are experiencing equipment difficulties while on the water.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mississippi River Rangers have been providing boat patrols as well as response to emergency calls and promoting boating safety for many years. Supporters such as J&J Marine and the Quinsippi Yacht Club have been invaluable in those efforts. The new safety equipment will be an asset for the Mississippi River Rangers and the boating public.

Quincy Boat Club Donates Facility for IL. DNR Boating Safety Classes

Over the years the Quincy Boat Club has been a strong supporter of boating safety and has generously donated the use of their facility to hold boating safety education classes. The Quincy Boat Club is a fantastic facility to hold these classes in and has a great view of the river. Without their continued support and use of their facility only a minimal number of classes could be scheduled in this area.

A special Thank You goes out to the Quincy Boat Club and its members for their continual support for boating safety in the community.

Newsletter Goal

This is an unofficial newsletter provided to you by the Mississippi River Rangers, Quincy Ranger Field Station. We hope to continue this newsletter on a bi-annual or quarterly basis. Our intention is to provide information about the Mississippi River on resource management and similar topics of interest to the public. We reserve all editorial rights for this newsletter.

We would appreciate your comments and ideas for future newsletters. Please send your responses to the email addresses at the heading of the newsletter.