



February 11, 2016

For Immediate Release



MRA Announces Events and Presentations for First Annual "California Boating Congress" at State Capital

The Schedule of Events and Speakers for the "California Boating Congress" to be held in Sacramento on March 8, 2016, is now available online at www.marina.org/thecongress

This important event to "chart the future of boating policy in California" will cover a broad range of topics, including discussions on the current state of recreational boating, environmental challenges, invasive species and water-quality issues, and updates on Department of Boating & Waterways planning and policies.

The scheduled events will begin at 9 AM at the Hyatt Regency Sacramento, 1209 'L' Street, just blocks from the State Capital, with opening statements by Kevin Ketchum, Immediate Past President of the Marine Recreation Association. David Dickerson, Vice President of State Government Relations / National Marine Manufacturers Association, will follow at 9:15 with a discussion covering the current state of recreational boating and the marine industry. California State Parks, Division of Boating and Waterways, Chief of Boating Operations, Ramona Fernandez, will talk about the departments various boating programs and initiatives at 10:15 AM.



Three briefings at 11:15, will follow with Kevin Ketchum, COO, California Yacht Marinas, covering current copper TMDL regulations; Bill Wells, Executive Director, California Delta Chambers, updating attendees on the Water Hyacinth problem in the Delta; and Susan Sykes, DBW, Derelict Vessel

Programs Analyst, discussing Vessel Turn-In Programs (VTIP), Abandoned Watercraft Abatement Funding (AWAF), and other DBW programs dealing with derelict and abandoned vessels.

Lunch will be served at noon for all participants with a presentation at 1:30 PM by Bill Krauss, The Apex Group, on "How to Talk to Your Legislators". The remainder of the afternoon will encompass scheduled meetings with state legislators and staff at the Capital to discuss marine industry and recreational boating issues.

The "California Boating Congress" is the result of collaboration between the MRA and eight other boating related groups, including California Yacht Brokers Association, National Marine Manufacturers Association, California Marine Affairs and Navigation Conference, California Parks Hospitality Association, California Sport Fishing League, California Delta Chambers & Visitors Bureau, Sacramento Valley Marine Association and the Worldwide Boaters Safety Group.



Early registration for the day-long event is \$149/attendee prior to February 29th. Regular registration after this date, is \$199/attendee. Registration and information is available on line at <http://www.marina.org/thecongress.html>.

The Marine Recreation Association is a professional organization of marina and other marine industry owners and operators located throughout the western United States with additional members in Canada, Mexico, and Australia. Created more than 45 years ago, the MRA actively promotes and represents recreational boating interests while providing educational management and operations seminars and information for marine industry owners, operators, and staff.

For additional information about the Marine Recreation Association, and all of its activities and interests, please contact Mariann Timms by phone at (209) 334-0661, email at mra@marina.org or online at www.marina.org.