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Outdoors

## A boatload of information



Special to The Detroit News

The D.U.D.E. (Doin' Ultimate Design Experiments) boat is presented by Marine Design Resource Alliance/Cobalt Boats.

By Dave Richey / The Detroit News

### 43rd Detroit Boat Show

**When:** Saturday-Feb. 18.

**Where:** Cobo Center, Detroit.

**Hours:** Noon to 9 p.m. daily except Sundays. Sunday hours are noon to 6 p.m.

**Admission:** Adults \$9, children under 12 are free with an adult, and seniors older than 65 are free on Monday.

**Parking:** Cobo Center and nearby parking lots.

**Features:** More than 600,000 square feet of boats and boating accessories. This year will present the first-ever showing of the D.U.D.E. Concept Boat. More than 300 boat and marine businesses will showcase their 2001 models, ranging from car-top boats, cabin cruisers, fishing boats, runabouts, sailboats, cabin cruisers, pontoon boats, inflatable boats, bowriders, racing yachts and personal watercraft. There will be more than 100 boat manufacturers present.

**Other features:** One-stop shopping for on-site financing, insurance, slip rentals, leasing, vacation planning, charter trips and maintenance services.

**Attractions:** Boating Kids Clinic, antique and classic boat exhibits, futuristic boat contests for children, celebrities, giveaways and other special features.

**Marine accessories:** Other equipment such as motors, trailers and marine electronics available.

**Information:** Phone (800) 224-3008 for more information.

## Michigan boating

**Boating numbers:** Michigan reached the 1 million registered boat level on Dec. Michigan Boating Industries Association's president Van Snider. Michigan has led in registered boats for 15 years, and the increase was about 50,000 new registrations a year's 952,900.

**Boat breakdown:** About 94 percent of the registered boats are powered. Over half (56 percent) are under 16 feet long, 40.9 percent are at least 16 feet long and less than 26 feet long, and 3.9 percent are 26 feet long but less than 40 feet long. Only .4 percent are 40 feet or longer but less than 65 feet long, and .1 percent are more than 65 feet in length.

**Waterways:** The Department of Natural Resources says Michigan has 3,121 miles of Great Lakes shoreline. It also has 11,037 inland lakes and 36,350 miles of rivers and streams. Michigan borders on four of the five Great Lakes, and residents are never more than 35 miles from a lake or stream. A person could stand anywhere within the state and not be more than 35 miles from one of the Great Lakes.

**Boater facts:** Forty percent of all residents are boaters, and the median age of a boater is 56 years old, based on 1994 statistics gathered by Michigan State University's Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism Resources. The average boater spends 29 days each year on the water, and that amounts to 18.9 million boater days. State boat owners spent about \$1.2 billion in 1998, and boat fuel represents \$176 million. Groceries accounted for \$1.1 billion and restaurants took in \$103 million from boaters. Those same boat owners spent \$1.1 billion in 1998 on boat-related expenses.

**Median income:** The average boater in this state earns \$40,000, based on 1994 statistics. About 30 percent have owned a boat for 17.1 years, and fishing (56 percent) and pleasure cruising (33 percent) were the two most frequent uses of a boat.

**Access:** Statistics from Michigan State University, MDNR and National Marine Manufacturers Association said Michigan has 1,406 public access sites, 758 marine dealers, 41 state boat manufacturers and 165 boating related businesses found here. There are 85 Great Lakes recreational harbors within our borders.

**Boating Economy:** MSU and NMMA statistics show that nearly \$336 million was spent on boats in 1998, and almost \$103 million was spent on outboard motors. Another \$1.1 billion was spent on boat trailers, and almost \$97 million was spent on boating-marine accessories. A total of \$1.07 billion in boater spending contributes \$600 million in income and supports 21,000 state jobs.

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