

# The ABA Beacon<sup>®</sup>

Publication for American Boating Association Members

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## MEMBER BENEFITS

- *The ABA Beacon*<sup>®</sup>
- *Seamanship Training*<sup>™</sup> E-Newsletter
- *ABA Online*<sup>®</sup>: All benefits can be accessed at [americanboating.org](http://americanboating.org)
- **ABA Boat Insurance:** 800-477-7140
- **ABA Boat Finance:** 877-222-0244
- **Safe & Clean Boating Information**
- **Cruising Destination Information**
- **ABA Marina Discounts**
- *Boating Life Magazine*
- **ABA Weather Alert Service**
- **ABA Visa**<sup>®</sup> Credit Card: 800-347-7887
- **ABA Boat Products**
- **ABA RV Finance:** 866-789-4511
- **ABA Online Travel Booking Service**
- **ABA Personal Checks and Labels**
- **Waterway Guides Discount:** 800-233-3359, ID#UWGABA
- **Great Lakes Ports O' Call Cruising Guides Discount:** 800-589-9491, ID#ZABA
- **Cruising Guide To The New York State Canal System Discount:** 802-860-2886, ID#ABA

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## Save Money When You Upgrade Your ABA Membership

Since you enjoy the boating life, you'll love this special offer! We've teamed up with *Boating Life* magazine to give you a free one-year subscription when you upgrade your ABA membership. Better yet, you can upgrade now for only \$6 – a 40% discount! **Reminder** – For access to the “Member Only” sections of [americanboating.org](http://americanboating.org), you need to set up your online account. Get the scoop on upgrading and on setting up your account on Page 2.

## Our Waterways Do Have Rules of the Road!

by Wayne Spivak, National Press Corps, USCG Auxiliary

In 2000, the Coast Guard showed 12,782,143 registered boats, which resulted in 7,740 accidents and 701 deaths as a result of those accidents. If you do some non-scientific statistical analysis, point 1 percent (0.1%) of all registered boats was in an accident. This figure is probably lower, since some boats have been in more than one accident.

In any event, one of the reasons why there were 7,740 accidents on the water was that people did not follow the Rules of the Road. These Rules (there are thirty-eight Rules and 5 Annexes) were formalized in the *Convention on the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972*. Commonly referred to as the COLREGS or the Rules, these Rules, especially the Inland rules, have been in effect (for all Inland waterways) since 1983.

As a recreational boater, you are responsible for your actions. For the boater who studies and obtains a captain's license from the Coast Guard, your liability, and responsibility is set at a higher standard. In other words, your wiggle room for negligence is eliminated.

For those boaters who have RADAR on their vessels, you too have a higher standard, when it comes to collisions at sea, since RADAR is considered an collision avoidance tool (Rule 7), which should be monitored at all times.

### Basic Rules

Rule 5 states that all vessels are required to have a look-out, on duty at all times, listening and looking, to make “a full appraisal of the situation and of the risk of collision”. The excuse “everyone was down below while we were making way” just doesn't work.

Rule 6 stipulates that a vessel should travel at a safe speed for existing conditions. The overriding condition is to have the ability to “take proper and effective action to avoid collision and be stopped within a distance appropriate to the prevailing circumstances and conditions.”

Rule 8 (“Action to Avoid Collision”) stipulates that you must take early and decisive actions to avoid a collision. Decisive actions are defined as “Any alteration of course and/or speed to avoid collision shall, if the circumstances of the case admit, be large enough to be readily apparent to another vessel observing visually or by radar; a succession of small alterations of course and/or speed should be avoided.”

Rule 2 (“Responsibility”) tells us we can throw out the book, should we need too, only as a last result, and only to avoid a collision.

However, Rule 2 first states clearly that both vessels must comply with all provisions of the Rules, and even if you have to dismiss the rules in order to avoid a collision, you will still be held responsible for failure to abide by the rules (early and decisive actions) in the first

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## Save Money With the ABA Boat Insurance Program

Need a better deal on your boat insurance? The ABA Boat Insurance Program, designed exclusively for ABA members, can help! ABA has partnered with a nationwide boat insurance agency to offer insurance for virtually any type of pleasure craft. Key features of the program are:

- Your business is placed with “A” or better rated companies;
- Very competitive rates and broad coverage;
- Nationwide availability;
- Fast, exceptional service (quotes typically received within one business day);
- A detailed understanding of the boat insurance market.

Request a free, no-obligation quote at [www.americanboating.org](http://www.americanboating.org), or you can call toll-free 800-477-7140. ■

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# LAKE TEXOMA: A TWO-STATE LAKE TO LOVE

by Lynn Seldon, Jr. – Boating Writer

If you love big-time big lake boating, it's hard to match Lake Texoma for size and variety. Straddling the Texas and Oklahoma state line, the 89,000-acre Lake Texoma means larger-than-life boating fun on a very big and very much alive lake.

Located just 75 miles north of Dallas and about 120 miles south of Oklahoma City, Lake Texoma has long been known to locals in both states as a superb boating (and fishing) destination. Today, however,

boaters are coming from further afield to enjoy Lake Texoma's many offerings.

This lake, featuring so much natural beauty, was actually created by man (and woman) more than 60 years ago. It's the result of the 1944 Denison Dam project.

With more than 580 miles of shoreline and a serpentine shape with lots of deep water, Lake Texoma is ideal for all types of boating—from power to sail in all shapes and sizes. There are many calm sheltered coves (including several with sandy beaches), as well as two excellent state parks (Eisenhower State Park in Texas and Lake Texoma State Park in Oklahoma), more than 50 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-managed parks, two wildlife refuges (that ducks, geese, bald eagles and people love), more than 25 varied resorts, hundreds of campgrounds, and a wide variety of marinas (see below). Plus, veteran Lake Texoma boaters know some of the best spots—including some mentioned above—are only reached by water!

Fishing is a big deal on this big lake. Lake Texoma is rightfully famous for striped bass, with local guides providing a great way to go for a record catch. Along with stripers, there are also thriving populations of crappie, black bass, sand bass, and some seriously massive catfish!

Other options on or near the lake might include: waterskiing; houseboat rentals; quiet sunbathing; hunting; and much more. Scuba diving is another unique possibility to get wet and underwater with some of those catfish!

It's hard to imagine a boating destination with more marinas per square mile (or acre of water). There's a huge variety of possibilities, with lots of dock space, ramps, sales, and services to suit any boater's needs. The Lake Texoma Association's website (see below) has an excellent listing of the numerous options all around the lake.

They also eat big in this area and there are lots of restaurants lining the lake. Of course, fish is a very popular menu offering (as are seriously big and tasty steaks). The nightlife is also quite entertaining, with Carlotta's Cantina at Catfish Bay Marina—inside Lake Texoma State Park—providing just one fun example (it's the lake's largest floating night club).

For shoppers, lakeside ship's stores and boutiques offer some interesting purchase possibilities you may not find at any other boating destination. A short drive inland, there are unique antiques shops, charming non-chain shops, factory outlet malls, and more.

The Texas and Oklahoma cities around Lake Texoma provide lots of possibilities for sightseeing, events, history, culture, more shopping and dining, as well as other outdoor pursuits not necessarily possible out on the water (like lots of golf amidst rolling hills and great lake views!). All offer their own unique attractions.

Madill (home of the Annual Sand Bass Festival), Marietta ("Gateway to Lake Country"), Kingston (home of the Annual Striper Festival), and Durant (the Magnolia Capital of Oklahoma and home of the Magnolia Festival) are all good bets on the Oklahoma side, while Texas options for exploration might include Pottsboro ("The Small Town with the Big Lake"), Gainesville (a "Pure

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**Watersports and camping opportunities are plentiful.**

*Photo Courtesy of OK Tourism & Recreation Dept.*

## Online Account Gives Access to All ABA Member Benefits

Are you missing out on valuable ABA member benefits? You are if you haven't set up your ABA online account! To gain access to the valuable and informative "Members Only" section of [www.americanboating.org](http://www.americanboating.org), simply click on "Member Log In" on the ABA homepage. From there, here's how it works:

• **If you are an ABA VISA credit card holder**, simply click where it says "An ABA Visa cardholder member?" to set up your member account. Once your account is created, your password will be e-mailed to you.

• **If you are not an ABA VISA credit card holder**, click on "Already an ABA member, but haven't set up your account yet?" Enter your e-mail address where indicated, and we will automatically send you a password by e-mail. Be sure to enter the **same e-mail address** that you used to sign up as a member – that's how you are identified as a charter member in our records.

Problems or questions? Just send us an e-mail at [admin@americanboating.org](mailto:admin@americanboating.org) or call us at 508-432-8846, and we'll provide prompt assistance. ■

## Boating Life Magazine Available to ABA Members

The American Boating Association is pleased to offer its members a one-year subscription to *Boating Life* magazine, compliments of ABA – which you can immediately start taking advantage of if you upgrade your ABA membership now.

ABA Visa cardholders have a complimentary membership, but we thought you might like to consider upgrading it to take advantage of this special subscription offer to *Boating Life* magazine.

*Boating Life* is your source for unbiased boat and gear reviews with trailering tips and great advice on how to maintain your boat for peak performance and enjoyment. When you upgrade your membership, you'll automatically receive a full year (8 issues) of *Boating Life*, compliments of ABA.

Even better news is that by upgrading your membership before the end of October 2005, you can

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# PRODUCT REVIEW

Marine Cuisine([www.marinecuisine.us](http://www.marinecuisine.us))



Boaters love the words, “just add water,” because when you add water with a boat you have the ideal mixture. Now, thanks to Marine Cuisine™, it’s also a recipe for tasty and convenient meals onboard your boat!

New Marine Cuisine meals offer a broad array of breakfast, lunch, and dinner options that were developed to fuel the boating lifestyle. Instead of a stale or soggy sandwich, what about scrambled eggs and ham, beef stew, spicy oriental rice and chicken, and maybe blueberry cheesecake for dessert?

By removing the bulk and weight of water in a wide variety of freshly cooked foods, the chefs at Marine Cuisine prepare meals that are 60% to 90% lighter than fresh foods and far lighter than canned good (they also tend to take up less space, which is always at a premium for most boaters). A special stand-up zipper pouch makes it easy to add boiling or hot water, stir, and enjoy the meal right out of the pouch, if desired (making galley cleanup as easy as washing the eating utensils!).

If a galley stove or thermos of hot water is unavailable, Marine Cuisine now offers the new Marine Oven--a unique re-usable flameless heating kit developed to heat up gourmet meals right in the pouch! With this innovation, piping hot meals are available on any size vessel in any conditions. ■

# ON THE HORIZON

## Boat Shows

Representative boat shows are listed below. For a full boat show listing and to link to boat show websites, please visit [www.americanboating.org/boatshows.asp](http://www.americanboating.org/boatshows.asp). This information is gathered from a variety of sources with the expectation that it is accurate. We recommend that you contact the show to confirm the information as dates can change without prior notice.

### September 10-18

**Northern California Fall Boat Show, CA**  
800-818-9994

### September 14-18

**North American Sail & Power Boat Show, OH**  
440-899-5009

### Fall Lake Union

**Northwest Yacht Brokers, WA**  
206-748-0012

### September 15-18

**Newport Int'l Boat Show, RI**  
800-582-7846

### September 22-25

**Sunfest Boat Show, MD**  
410-213-1121

**Lido Yacht Exhibit, CA**  
949-757-5959

**Norwalk Int'l. In-Water Boat Show, CT**  
212-984-7000

**Mid-Atlantic Boat Show, MD**  
800-378-4315

### Sept 29-Oct 2

**Int'l. Boston In-Water Boat Show, MA**  
978-777-4439

**Indianapolis Fall Boat & RV Show, IN**  
800-892-1723

### Sept 30-Oct 2

**Fall New Jersey Boat Show, NJ**  
800-332-3976

## Lake Texoma

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Texas Experience,” including lots of history), Whitesboro (Annual Peanut Festival), Denison (historic downtown arts district), Sherman (“Red River, White Stars, Blue Sky”), and Bonham (named for Alamo hero and messenger James Butler Bonham, with lots of history—including the historic home/museum of long-time Congressman Sam Rayburn).

Given all this, it’s easy to see why locals love Lake Texoma and word on the big lake is spreading fast. This two-state lake is now a big-time boating destination!

For further visitor and boater information, contact the helpful Lake Texoma Association by calling 580-564-2334 or visiting [www.laketexomaonline.com](http://www.laketexomaonline.com). The Texas Tourism ([www.traveltex.com](http://www.traveltex.com)) and Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department ([www.travelok.com](http://www.travelok.com)) can also be quite helpful in planning a trip. There are also Texas and Oklahoma information centers located on the borders at Highway 69/75, as well as on I-35 (all with room for your boat trailer!). ■

## Need a Better Rate on Your Boat Loan?

### ABA Boat Finance Program

[www.americanboating.org](http://www.americanboating.org)

877-222-0244 (toll free)

*Just one online or telephone quote request, and the finance experts will get you the best quote.*

- Fast, free confidential service
- Specialists in boat financing
- Available for boat loans from \$10,000 to \$10,000,000

*Another valuable benefit for members of the American Boating Association*



**ABA**  
American Boating Association

*Working to promote boating safety, affordability, growth and a clean environment.*



## Our Waterways... continued from page 1

place.

Summary: Look, listen, analyze and make changes to your course and speed that are overt and noticeable to avoid a collision at sea! ■

## Boating Life magazine available to ABA members continued from page 2

save even more! A regular upgrade costs \$10, but if you upgrade now, you pay only \$6 - a savings of 40%. Your upgrade includes your complimentary *Boating Life* subscription - a \$19.97 value in and of itself!

Plus, you'll continue to receive uninterrupted access to all of your member benefits including:

- Your subscription to The *ABA Beacon*® newsletter and *Seamanship Training*® e-newsletter
- Marina discounts
- Boat insurance and finance programs
- Boat show calendar
- Help and information for boating safety and clean boating
- Cruising guide discounts
- Use of our exclusive marine manufacturers database
- Extensive travel discounts, like 65% off hotels, up to 40% off auto rentals, and admission discounts to theme parks and zoos
- And so much more!

When you add up the value of all of the ABA member benefits, you're receiving far more than the normal \$10 membership fee, and even more with the promotional \$6 membership fee. Not only that, but you're helping to support an organization that is working hard each and every day to promote boating safety, affordability, growth, and a clean environment. Talk about getting your money's worth!

You're a valued member. We hope that you'll take the next step - upgrade your membership and start your complimentary subscription to *Boating Life* magazine today and take advantage of the promotional \$6 upgrade offer to save even more money.

As always, thank you for your support in helping us to promote boating safety, affordability, growth, and a clean environment!

Upgrade today at [www.americanboating.org/login.asp](http://www.americanboating.org/login.asp). Enter code **BLUSP5** to receive the promotional \$6 upgrade. ■

## BOATER'S QUIZ Storm Warnings

1. If you can't get your boat out of the water, what's the first thing to do in the face of a coming storm?
  - a. Read your insurance policy
  - b. Seek a safe haven
  - c. Distribute PFDs to all on board
2. When should a recreational boat put to sea to "ride out" a storm?
  - a. Before the first clouds arrive
  - b. After the mooring line snaps
  - c. Absolutely never
3. A Small Craft Advisory starts with what wind speed?
  - a. Typically 18 knots
  - b. 25 knots
  - c. Gusts to 30 knots
4. If you get into trouble, how soon should you call for help?
  - a. When taking water
  - b. When the engine dies
  - c. Immediately
5. What do you do with a swamped but buoyant boat?
  - a. Swim away
  - b. Bang on hull for attention
  - c. Tether passengers, stay with it
6. What if the boat is sinking?
  - a. Remove valuables
  - b. Roll it to trap air in the hull
  - c. Swim away, but stay together
7. What gets thrown over the side when a storm catches you in port?
  - a. Perishables
  - b. Extra fenders
  - c. Carbonated beverages
8. If your boat washes ashore after a storm, before boarding check for:
  - a. Power lines, debris, wildlife
  - b. Witnesses
  - c. The nearest launching ramp

1b; 2c; 3a; 4c; 5c; 6c; 7b; 8a  
**Key to answers**

## MEMBER BENEFITS

- **Lakeland Boating Magazine Discount:**  
800-827-0289, ID#ZABA
- **ABA Magazine Discounts:**  
800-603-5602
- **ABA Custom Boating Apparel**
- **ABA CityPass Discounts**
- **Avis Auto Rental Discounts:** 800-331-1212, AWD#B853101
- **Budget Auto Rental Discounts:**  
800-455-2848, ID#X483101
- **Enterprise Rent-A-Car Discounts:**  
800-593-0505, ID#KC4551
- **Hertz Auto Rental Discounts:**  
800-654-2200, ID#1290122
- **Comfort Inn, Comfort Suites, Clarion, Sleep Inn, Quality Inn, MainStay Suites, Rodeway Inn, and EconoLodge Discounts:**  
800-258-2847, ID#00058336
- **Cendant Hotel Discounts:**  
#60093:
  - Days Inn, 800-268-2195;
  - Howard Johnson, 800-769-0939;
  - Knights Inn, 800-682-1071;
  - Ramada, 800-462-8035;
  - Travelodge, 800-545-5545;
  - Wingate Inn, 877-202-8814
- **ABA Travel Insurance**
- **ABA Discount Calling Card:**  
800-657-4711, ID#ABA
- **ABA Theme Park and Zoo Discounts**
- **ABA Ski Resort Discounts**
- **Royal Caribbean and Celebrity Cruise Line Discounts:**  
888-226-2100, ID#ABA8884567887
- **ABA Movie Discounts**

All benefits can be accessed at:  
[www.americanboating.org](http://www.americanboating.org)

American Boating Association  
PO Box 417  
Harwich Port, MA 02646  
508-432-8846  
508-430-2049 (fax)  
[admin@americanboating.org](mailto:admin@americanboating.org)