

The ABA Beacon®

Publication for American Boating Association Associate Members

Boating Destination

Cruising The Great Lakes - 3rd in a Series : Lake Huron

by W. Lynn Seldon, Jr. - Boating and Travel Writer

As profiled in the last two issues (first as an overview and then with specific coverage of Lake Michigan), there may be no better freshwater boating in the world than in the Great Lakes region. Both veteran and beginner boaters may be surprised to learn that, taken together, the Great Lakes comprise the largest body of freshwater in the world.

Lake Huron (along with Georgian Bay and the North Channel), offers some of the most varied boating opportunities in the Great Lakes region. From the charms of Mackinac Island and Mackinaw City to the quiet coves of Georgian Bay and the North Channel, this is Great Lakes boating at its best. In fact, Mackinaw City and Mackinac Island are great places to start a tour of this region, with the big bridge that crosses the Straits of Mackinac separating northern Lake Michigan from Lake Huron.



A view of Lake Huron and the Mackinac Bridge

Mackinac Island is the main Lake Huron destination for many boaters (and lots of tourists). The island is only eight miles in circumference and is circled by an extension of Huron Street (great for a bike tour). Highlights include the famed and sprawling Grand Hotel, a quaint downtown area, shopping, and historic Fort Mackinac. Bustling

Mackinac Island State Dock, 906-847-3561, is especially popular so book dockage early.

Mackinaw City recently underwent a \$25 million renovation, with more than 200 shops, an 850-seat entertainment complex, a five-screen cinema, the restored Colonial Michilimackinac State Park, Mackinac Bridge Museum, and trolley service (everything is also generally within walking distance of the marina). Mackinaw City Municipal

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ABA Member Benefits

- The ABA Beacon® Newsletter
- ABA Online™: www.americanboating.org
- ABA Visa® Credit Card: 800-FIRSTUSA
- ABA Signature Items Catalog: 800-480-2053
- Lakeland Boating Magazine Discount: 800-827-0289, #ZABA
- Great Lakes Ports O' Call Cruising Guides 800-892-9342, #ZABA
- ABA Magazine Discount Program: 800-289-6247
- ABA Theme Park and Zoo Discounts: 508-432-8846
- Avis Auto Rental Discounts: 800-331-1212, AWD# B853101
- Enterprise Rent-A-Car Discounts: 508-432-8846
- Comfort Inn, Comfort Suites, Clarion, Sleep Inn, Quality Inn, MainStay Suites, Rodeway Inn, and Econo Lodge Discounts: 800-424-6423, #00058336
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- Cendant Hotel Discounts: #60093:
 - Days Inn, 800-268-2195;
 - Howard Johnson, 800-769-0939;
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 - Ramada, 800-462-8035;
 - Travelodge, 800-545-5545;
 - Wingate Inn, 877-202-8814
- iWant.com: www.americanboating.org
- Movie Discount Program: 800-565-3712 or www.americanboating.org Reference code CORP073100 and member I.D. #99110303
- Passport Health: 888-499-PASS (7277) I.D. #ABA
- Citizens Against Crime Discounts: 800-466-1010
- ABA Travel Safety and Advisory Pamphlets: 508-432-8846

You can access all of these benefits at www.americanboating.org

ABA Onlinesm Has New Look

ABA Onlinesm has a brand new look! See for yourself at www.americanboating.org. You will still be able to find the valuable information that you always have, but now you can find even more! We've added three new sections to the site that you'll want to check out - Cruising, Clean Boating, and Boating Safety.

The Cruising section gives you a first hand account of full-time cruising by an ABA member and his family. It includes practical information on the dos and don'ts of cruising, tips, getting

started, and more, along with personal accounts and photos of their experiences.

Clean Boating features information on boating and the environment including practical tips and guidelines to help boaters be "clean boaters". You can pose your questions and comments to "Mr. Clean Boating", too.

Boating Safety offers access to useful and practical safety information such as safety and survival tips, checklists, PFD info, boating safety for kids and more. ☺

Magazine Discount Program Added to Member Benefits

ABA members can now receive guaranteed lowest rates on many of the most popular boating and general interest magazines. Take advantage of savings of up to 50% off magazines such as *Boating*, (regularly \$28, you pay only \$21.97), *Boating World*, (regularly \$18, you pay only \$10), *Power & Motor Yacht*, (regularly \$19.95, you pay only \$9.98), *Trailer Boats*, (regularly \$17.97, you pay only \$14.97), and many other boating magazines.

Discounts can be found on magazines like *Reader's Digest* (regularly \$24.76, you pay \$13.96),

Family Circle (regularly \$16.98, you pay \$11.97), *Car & Driver* (regularly \$21.94, you pay \$11.97), *Golf Digest* (regularly \$27.94, you pay \$16.77), and *Ladies Home Journal* (regularly \$16.97, you pay \$12.00), and 1000 other titles. You can subscribe online through Member Benefits at www.americanboating.org or call our magazine subscription line at 800-289-6247. Plus, for each magazine you subscribe to, you help to support ABA's mission to keep boating safe, clean, affordable, and fun! Place your order today! ☺

Additional Theme Parks & Zoo Added to Discount Program

Free discounts on admission are now available to the four U.S. ParamountTM Parks - Great America[®] located in Santa Clara, CA; Carowinds[®] located in Charlotte, NC; Kings Island[®] located in Cincinnati, OH; and Kings Dominion[®] located in Richmond, VA. Some of the most thrilling roller coasters in the country are found at a Paramount theme park.

ABA members can also now enjoy a discount (approximately 10%) on admission to the Happy Hollow Park & Zoo in San Jose, CA! Happy Hollow Park & Zoo offers puppet shows and vintage kiddie rides in the children's creative areas,

more than 150 animals in the close contact zoo and many rare and endangered species such as lemurs, pygmy hippos, and a jaguar.

Six Flags AstroWorld in Houston, TX, and Six Flags New England in Agawam, MA, and Six Flags Over Georgia in Austell, GA, have been added to the other Six Flag theme parks participating in the *ABA Theme Park and Zoo Discount Program*. For a complete list of participating parks and zoos and to order your free discount coupons, visit www.americanboating.org or call ABA at 508-432-8846. ☺

New Enterprise[®] Locations in Auto Rental Discount Program

As promised, ABA has been at work to bring you additional Enterprise[®] Rent-A-Car locations participating in the *ABA Auto Rental Discount Program*. The new locations and discount codes listed alphabetically by state are: AZ discount code L63786, CA (northern) discount code R67751, DE discount code NC258G, FL (northern) discount code N43906, GA (Atlanta area) discount code G22692, IL (Chicagoland) discount code K4C2584,

IN (northwestern) discount code K4C2584, OH (Steubenville) discount code GH1016, PA (eastern) discount code NC258G, PA (western) discount code GH1016, NJ (southern) NC258G, and WV (Wheeling) discount code GH1016. These locations are in addition to the locations listed previously. For a complete listing, visit *ABA Onlinesm* www.americanboating.org or call ABA at 508-432-8846. ☺

Cruising The Great Lakes - *continued from page 1*

Marina, 231-436-5269, also has more than \$400,000 worth of work, with new restrooms, showers, a chart room, and office (they're typically open 24 hours a day in July and August).

To the south, Cheboygan (five marinas) is another popular destination or boating base. This gateway to the Straits of Mackinac features the 100-year-old tower of the Crib Light lighthouse, the 1877 Opera House, great golf, and *Mackinaw*, a Coast Guard ice breaker often available for tours. The 40-mile Inland Waterway connects

Cheboygan with Petoskey and Lake Michigan.

Further south, the western shore of Lake Huron includes many small towns and marinas ideal for daytrips and more. Some top picks are: Rogers City (with a centerpiece rehabbed marina, 517-734-3808); Presque Isle (featuring the only natural harbor on the Michigan shore of Lake Huron), Presque Isle Marina, 517-595-3069; Harrisville (home to one of the few one-room schools still standing in Michigan), Harrisville Harbor of Refuge, 517-724-5242; Oscoda/

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Boat Shows

Representative boat shows listed below. For a full boat show listing, please visit *ABA Online™*, www.americanboating.org.

September 7-10, 2000

Atlantic City In-Water Powerboat Show, NJ
(215) 732-8001 www.acboatshow.com

September 8-10, 2000

Carolina Fall Boat Show & Sale, NC
(336) 855-0208

September 13-17, 2000

North American Sail and Power Boat Show, OH
(440) 899-5009 www.lemta.com

Lake Union Boats Afloat Show, WA
(206) 545-8804 www.yachtworld.com

September 14-17, 2000

Lido Yacht Expo, CA
(949) 757-5959 www.goboatingamerica.com

Indianapolis Fall Boat & RV Show, IN
(800) 892-1723 www.renfrosportshows.com

Newport International Boat Show, RI
(401) 846-1115 www.newportexhibition.com

September 16-17 & 20-24, 2000

Northern California Fall Boat Show, CA
(510) 834-1000 www.ncma.com

September 16-19, 2000

Tampa International Boat Show, FL
(305) 531-8410 www.boatshows.com

September 16-24, 2000

Boat Show USA, MI
(800) 529-0494 www.boatshowusa.net

September 21-24, 2000

Norwalk International In-Water Boat Show, CT
(212) 922-1212 www.boatshows.com

Sept. 28 - Oct. 1, 2000

International Boston In-Water Boat Show, MA
(978) 777-4439 www.bostoninwaterboatshow.com

Sept. 29 - Oct. 1, 2000

New Jersey Fall Boat Show, NJ
(732) 449-4004 www.macevents.com

Mid-Atlantic Boat Show, MD
(800) 378-4315 www.boatshowsonline.com

Sept. 29 - Oct. 1 & Oct. 7-9, 2000

Long Island In-Water Boat Show, NY
(631) 691-7050 www.nymta.com

Sept. 30 - Oct. 1

Florida Sportsman Fishing Show, FL
(813) 839-7696 www.flsportsman.com

October 5-8, 2000

Houston Int'l In-The-Water Boat Show, TX
(713) 526-6361

October 12-15, 2000

United States Powerboat Show, MD
(410) 268-8828 www.usboat.com

Clean Boating - How Are We Doing?

America's first serious legislative attempt to clean up our act on the nation's ponds, lakes, and waterways was enacted into law in 1972. The goal of the Clean Water Act and subsequent legislation has been to protect our drinking water, wildlife, and recreational resources, and to make these waters fishable and swimmable by the turn of the century.

Back in 1972, many lakes and rivers were so badly polluted by uncontrolled sewage discharge and septic run-off that fecal bacteria were counted in the millions per gallon. Many New England rivers were the color of whatever dye was being used in the local textile mills that day. In

Cleveland, Ohio, the Cuyahoga River had actually caught fire from the ignition of industrial discharges floating on the surface.

So, how are we doing? Well, we have been very successful in reducing or eliminating point source discharges from sewage plants, industrial sites, and other institutional sources of pollution. We can now boat, fish and swim in many of those waters without fear of poison or disease. Even the once infamous harbor area where the Cuyahoga River meets Lake Erie is now bustling with pleasure boaters and tourists. As the song goes, we really have changed the world - or at least part of it.

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Save 20% AT ANY PARTICIPATING

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The next time you're traveling, call **1-800-258-2847** and request the S.O.S. Discount **#00058336**.

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Call **1-800-258-2847**.

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Au Sable, four marinas, (where the Paul Bunyan tales started); Tawas City, three marinas, (be sure to visit nearby and quaint East Tawas); Bay City, five marinas, (a revived music mecca); Caseville, six marinas, (a resort town with many festivals); Port Austin, three marinas, (near interesting Grindstone City and Port Hope); Harbor Beach, two marinas, (the nation's largest manmade harbor); Port Sanilac, two marinas, (great wreck diving); Lexington, two marinas; and Port Huron, eight marinas, (sister city with Sarnia, Ontario, Canada to the east).

On the Ontario, Canada, side of Lake Huron, there are many more scenic stopovers. Some of the best include: Port Franks, four marinas, (great cruising along a sandy shoreline); Grand Bend, two marinas, (a rustic and tranquil town of about 1,000); Bayfield, three marinas, (an artsy little stopover); Goderich, three marinas, (featuring Victorian homes); Kincardine, Kincardine Yacht Club Marina, 519-797-2817, (be sure to visit the historic Kincardine Lighthouse Museum); Port Elgin, Port Elgin Harbour, 519-832-6535, (with sugar maples and great sunsets); historic Southampton, Southampton Marine Motor Lodge, 519-797-2817, (including the Bruce County Museum & Archives); the west coast of the Bruce Peninsula, six marinas; the old fishing village of South Baymouth, South Bay Marina, 705-859-3656; and, back in Michigan, Cedarville, two marinas; Hessel, two marinas; and St. Ignace, St. Ignace Public Dock 906-643-8131.

With the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), customs generally isn't an issue for boaters. The general rule is that you have

up to 24 hours upon entering the country to check in with customs. Canada has made it easy for boaters entering the country with the Canpass-Private boats system (for details, call 888-CANPASS or the U.S. INS office at 800-375-5283).

Along with charts (see below), the best way to stay safe and happy while boating in the Great Lakes is with Lakeland Boating's *Ports O' Call* cruising guides. They remain the most comprehensive full-color resources on the market. The *Ports O' Call* series includes Lake Michigan, Lake Huron, Lake Erie, Lake Ontario, and Lake Superior. Buying their Lake Huron (including Georgian Bay and the North Channel) or other appropriate

guide provides the perfect introduction to Great Lakes boating.

DETAILS

As mentioned in the last issue, Lakeland Boating magazine (regularly \$21.95, but just \$11.00 for ABA members. Call 800-827-0289 and press 0 for a representative. Be sure to use source code ZABA) is a great resource for Great Lakes cruising. Their *Ports O' Call* cruising guides (800-892-9342 regularly \$44.95, but 10% off for ABA members, mention source code ZABA when ordering) are 'must-haves' for the area (their updated Lake Huron guide is hugely popular). Marine Navigation (708-352-0606) in La Grange, Illinois, offers a huge selection of up-to-date charts, as well as information, advice, and charts for practically everywhere else in the world. ☺

Attention ABA Members!

Get your yearly subscription to *Lakeland Boating* for only \$11.00. That's almost a 50% savings (normally \$21.95)! Call 800-827-0289 and press 0 for a representative. Be sure to use source code ZABA. Save 10% off the *Ports O' Call* guides (normally \$44.95, you pay \$40.45 per guide plus shipping and handling.) Call 800-892-9342 and use source code ZABA.

Clean Boating - *continued from page 3*

But nonpoint sources of pollution - including agricultural runoff, tainted stormwater, near-shore septic tanks, and mobile sources such as boats - are another matter. Even seemingly small sources of pollution can have a big impact on water quality. For example, bacteria in shellfish beds in Buttermilk Bay near Cape Cod were traced to dog feces washed there from surrounding yards by rainstorms. Pollution from boats and marinas includes litter, fish waste, sewage, fuels and lubricants, contaminated bilge water, boat-maintenance products, and storm water runoff.

Each boat and marina may represent only a tiny fraction of the total, but 94 million of us boat and/or fish each year, and there are more than 10,000 U.S. marinas and millions of boats.

Pollution can affect boaters by contact, ingestion, and by biological accumulation in the fish that we catch and eat. About one-half of fecal mass is potentially virulent bacteria. In addition, scientists have measured detectable quantities of caffeine and pharmaceuticals in the Nation's waters.

Our future success or failure in reducing nonpoint pollution is up to you. It will be controlled only when individuals change old habits and make the extra effort to properly dispose of waste. Boaters in particular, as primary beneficiaries of clean waters, are morally and legally responsible for their actions on the water, at the dock, in the marina, and at home. In addition to educating themselves in clean boating and improving their own practices, they should share information with others, including legislators. They can improve water quality by factoring it into such decisions as selecting a marina, performing boat maintenance, and buying equipment and supplies.

Free information on boating and the environment is available from the Coast Guard, the EPA, NOAA, state and local governments, as well as many private companies and organizations, including the ABA. For information about how to access these free resources, check out the ABA web page on clean boating at www.americanboating.org, and share this information with your boating friends. ☺