

The ABA Beacon[®]

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MEMBER BENEFITS

- **The ABA Beacon[®]**
- **ABA Online[®]:**
americanboating.org
- **Safe & Clean Boating Information:**
americanboating.org
- **Cruising Destination Information:**
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- **ABA Marina Discounts:**
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- **ABA Visa[®] Credit Card:** 800-FIRSTUSA
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- **Waterway Guides Discount:**
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- **Alamo Auto Rental Discounts:**
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Cruising the Carolinas: North Carolina

by Mike Anderson, Full-time Cruiser and ABA Member

Whether cruising the Intracoastal Waterway (ICW) or making offshore passages, the Carolinas are a big part of any trip along the east coast of the United States. They offer many well-marked inlets to safely plan ocean passages and the region is populated with interesting towns, rich in historical significance. There is nightlife, fine dining, local flavor and plenty of good southern hospitality.

An excellent way for the southbound boater to enter North Carolina is by way of the Dismal Swamp Canal. This wonderful passage is anything but dismal. When leaving Norfolk, VA, turn to starboard off of the main ICW onto Deep Creek at about Mile Marker Eight. You officially enter the Dismal Swamp Canal at the Deep Creek Lock. Lock Master Robert Peek will likely invite you into the original lock keeper's house for coffee and doughnuts while giving you an interesting rundown of the Canal's history. Be sure to ask him about the stone mile markers. During the peaceful and scenic 23-mile transit of the canal you cross from Virginia into North Carolina. Just across the state line you pass the North Carolina Visitor Center, which offers 400 feet of dockage for overnight stops.

At the south end of the canal you reverse the bridge and locking procedure at South Mills and enter the Pasquotank River. The breathtaking run down this winding river takes you to Elizabeth City, NC. Known as the "Harbor of Hospitality," Elizabeth City offers boaters free dockage for up to 48 hours at Mariners Wharf. Over 15 years ago, the "Rose Buddies" began a tradition that continues today. After greeting the boaters and offering a rose to the ladies, Fred Fearing (one of the original "Rose Buddies") and his fellow ambassadors of hospitality host a wine and cheese party to welcome the visiting boaters. It is an excellent spot to meet fellow cruisers, swap sea stories and wait out any adverse weather before crossing the Albemarle Sound.

Leaving Elizabeth City and continuing down the Pasquotank River will take you past an unusual structure. This large, elongated dome-like structure is a blimp building facility. Originally built to provide blimps for World War II, it still produces the flying billboards today. Past this landmark, the Pasquotank enters the Albemarle Sound and rejoins the main ICW just above the Alligator River Bridge. While this bridge normally opens on request, it cannot open in high

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Great Holiday Gift Ideas from ABA

The holidays are right around the corner. Looking for the perfect gift for someone special? ABA can help! Check out these unique and money saving ideas:

- **Custom Embroidered Boating Apparel** - ABA offers its members a variety of boating apparel chosen with the active boater in mind. Choose from top quality shirts, jackets, hats, bags and more. Plus, ABA offers "ABA Kids" apparel especially for our young ABA members. For that extra touch, personalize your items with the name of your boat. To view the catalog and/or order online, visit www.americanboating.org. To place an order by phone, call **800-480-2053**. Please allow 3 weeks for delivery.

- **BoatersWorld.com Marine Products** - As an ABA member, you can order BoatersWorld.com boating/marine products online directly through the ABA website, www.americanboating.org. You have access to the full range of products offered by BoatersWorld.com, plus special product promotions are available that can only be accessed through the ABA website. You receive the same competitive pricing and excellent quality

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"S.V. Moonraker" in a lock of the Great Dismal Swamp Canal

THE CRUISING GAME

by Mike Anderson, Full-time Cruiser and ABA Member

People often ask me what it is like to live on a boat. They tell me how much they would like to experience the cruising lifestyle. With this in mind we have developed a game that can be played that might help to simulate what the cruising life is like. Please play along at home. Points are awarded in each category.

So, let's get started...

1. Every three months take apart and reassemble every major appliance in your home. 100 points (10 points deducted for every part left over).
2. When using the telephone respond in phrases like "That's a Roger", "Do You Copy?", "Come Back" and "Your signal is broken, you were stepped on." End each statement with the term "Over" (real sailors do not say "Over and Out"); 10 point deduction for this. 50 points. 50 bonus points for using the phrase "Standing By" when someone puts you on hold.
3. Take everything that you normally leave lying about your yard or store in your garage like bikes, kayaks, gas cans, lawn chairs and barbecue grills, and somehow attach them to your house, preferably with bungee cords and rope, but feel free to bolt that BBQ grill right to the side. 100 points. 50 bonus points for hanging your laundry on any available spot.
4. Take your toilet to the local cowboy bar and strap it to the mechanical bull machine. Set the machine on high. Use toilet. 500 points. 100 points for using only three squares of toilet paper.
5. Do all of your cooking in your kids EZ Bake Oven. 50 points. 25 bonus points for burning things.
6. At three o'clock in the morning have your spouse scream in your ear "THE ANCHOR'S DRAGGING!!" Jump out of bed and run around in the sprinkler. 100 points. 500 bonus points for doing it in the buff.
7. The next time you drive by a house just like yours, feel free to go on up to the door and invite the people who answer to come over to your house for cocktails. 100 points. 100 bonus points for inviting yourself in to see their house.
8. Stack your trash on the front porch and take it with you in your car whenever you go out anywhere looking for somewhere to leave it. 100 points. 100 bonus points if you have flies on it. All points deducted for leaving it somewhere other than a trash receptacle.
9. Pull into the local gas station and get five dollars worth of gas and proceed to fill every container you can carry with potable water. 100 points. 100 bonus points for asking them if there is somewhere you can leave the trash.
10. Plan your commute to work by the direction of the wind. 100 points. 1,000 bonus points for calling your boss and telling him that you can't come in today because the wind is "on the nose."

So, how did you do? Tally up all of your points and if you have any, you should be out there cruising. The ultimate prize is to sit on the porch after successfully completing all these steps, with a cocktail in your hand, looking incredibly cool.



ABA Members Save on Waterway Guides

As an ABA member, you receive a 10% discount on any of the three editions of the *Waterway Guides*, normally \$39.95, but only \$35.95 for ABA members! To order and receive your ABA discount, call **800-233-3359** and mention your ABA membership or use promo code UWGABA. Please allow two weeks for delivery.

For more than 50 years, boaters have trusted *Waterway Guides* to ensure safe and enjoyable cruising. Each edition is packed with comprehensive navigational information including bridge schedules, marina listings, anchorages, distance tables, cruising tips, repair yards, restaurants, significant harbors, and points of interest along the way. The guides are updated annually.

The *Northern Waterway Guide* includes coverage from the Delaware Bay to the Canadian Boarder. Also included is coverage of the Hudson River, Lake Champlain, and the Erie Canal.

The *Mid-Atlantic Waterway Guide* includes coverage from the Chesapeake Bay to the Florida border.

The *Southern Waterway Guide* includes coverage from the Florida border to Mexico. Also included is coverage of the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway as well as coverage of the Bahamas. The *Southern Waterway Guide* is a recommended resource in numerous articles of *The ABA Beacon*®. To view the articles, go to www.americanboating.org/beamcon.htm. ■

Brush Up on Your Boating Knowledge

Now that the boating season is over for most of the country, why not use this time to check out the Clean Boating and Safe Boating sections of www.americanboating.org? Use the "off time" to become an even safer and cleaner boater.

Some of the information that can be found in the Clean Boating section includes How to Be a Clean Boater, Clean Motoring, Boating and Air Pollution, Boating and Family Health & Safety, Fuel and Oil Spills, and Clean Trash Discharge.

The Safe Boating section includes information from the U.S. Coast Guard, How to Choose a PFD, How to File a Float Plan, State Towing Laws, and Children and Boating Safety. ■

Great Holiday Gift Ideas from ABA - continued from page 1

service as you would if you ordered from BoatersWorld.com directly, but with a distinct difference. When you order through the ABA website, BoatersWorld.com makes a contribution to ABA to support ABA's mission to keep boating growing, clean, safe, affordable and fun. You can help support ABA without any additional expense!

- **ABA Magazine Discount Program** - ABA members receive guaranteed lowest rates on many of the most popular boating and general interest magazines. Thousands of titles are available. Take advantage of savings up to 50% off! Subscribe online at www.americanboating.org, or call 800-289-6247. Send as a gift!

- **ABA Cruising Guide Discount Program** - ABA members receive valuable discounts on many cruising guides including: *Ports O' Call Cruising Guides*, *Cruising Guide to NYS Canals*, *Lakeland Boating Magazine*, and *Waterway Guides*. See "member benefits" on page one or the web site at www.americanboating.org/memberbenefits.htm for discount and ordering information.

- **Royal Caribbean® and Celebrity® Cruise Discounts** - ABA members receive a two-cabin class upgrade when booking a Royal Caribbean or Celebrity cruise! Let someone else "take the helm" and indulge yourself in the luxuries and pampering of a cruise. To talk with a cruise specialist and/or to book your cruise, call 888-226-2100 and mention your ABA membership to receive your upgrade. (Certain restrictions apply.)

- **Movie and Video Rental Discounts** - Give the gift of entertainment! Save up to 40% off theatre chain admission tickets and video rentals. For a listing of participating theatre chains and video stores, please visit www.americanboating.org, or call ABA at 508-432-8846. Please allow up to two weeks for delivery.

Don't fight the holiday crowds and traffic! All of the above gifts can be ordered either through the ABA website, and/or via the phone. Don't forget to use your ABA Visa® card for your purchases. ■

Cruising the Carolinas - continued from page 1

winds, so plan accordingly if conditions deteriorate. Just north of the bridge to starboard is the Alligator River Marina, the only marina between Elizabeth City and Belhaven, fifty miles to the south.

The Neuse River is one of the widest rivers in the country and offers a good opportunity to sail or open up the throttle a bit as you head toward Oriental, NC. Oriental is a small town that offers many services at its various marinas and boatyards. Restaurants and cafes, marine hardware stores, a grocery and a post office are within a reasonable walk from the docks.

Leaving the ICW and continuing up the Neuse to where the Trent River joins will bring you to the city of New Bern. The Sheraton Marina is right on the waterfront with easy access to the historic town center. Jacob Pinkham, the Dockmaster at the Sheraton, is helpful and accommodating. New Bern has many good restaurants and shops and boasts the birthplace of Pepsi Cola. Originally named "Brad's Drink" after the inventor of the formula, the present name was derived from the word "Episcopal" reflecting the location of the original site across the street from an 18th century church.

Visit Mitchell's Hardware, an old time hardware store that offers almost everything in its narrow and cluttered aisles. They carry stainless screws, nuts, bolts and other marine items. The "Pak-a-Sak" grocery store is a short walk and is a full service store for your provisioning needs.

Backtracking down the Neuse puts you on the ICW again at Adams Creek and from there, a short run to Beaufort (pronounced bow-fert), NC. This pronunciation is important since there is a Beaufort (pronounced beuw-fert), SC, and improper pronunciation will earn you correction. Beaufort is a great stop for boaters and offers the first real opportunity to go offshore below Cape Hatteras via Beaufort Inlet. It is well marked and offers good ocean access, entering or leaving. Taylor Creek offers options for both anchoring and dockage with easy access to town, but can get crowded and may require two anchors to reduce swing in the strong reversing current.

Town Creek, while not as convenient to town, has both anchorages and dockage without the currents of Taylor Creek. Beaufort has several good restaurants and shops, a laundromat and post office right on the waterfront. Beaufort Marine has a good inventory of parts and supplies, and Scuttlebutt Books has a full range of charts and guidebooks. The Royal James Café touts the best cheeseburgers in North Carolina - try the double cheeseburger "all the way."

Across Taylor Creek opposite the town waterfront is an island that is part of the Rachel Carson Wildlife Estuary where several wild ponies can often be seen wandering the shoreline. The area also lays claim to being the famous pirate Blackbeard's

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The Cruising Authority
**WATERWAY
GUIDE**

ABA MEMBERS
To order and receive a 10% discount,
call (800) 233-3359 and mention
your ABA membership or
promo code UWGABA.
For information,
visit www.americanboating.org

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.

November 15 - 18, 2001

Ft. Meyers Boat Show, FL

(954) 570-7785

St. Petersburg Boat Show, FL

(800) 940-7642

January 2 - 6, 2002

Atlanta Boat Show, GA

(305) 531-8410

San Diego Boat Show, CA

(starts January 3)

(858) 274-9924

January 5 - 13, 2002

New York National Boat Show, NY

(212) 922-1212

Nashville Boat & Sports Show, TN

(starts January 9)

(314) 567-0020

January 17 - 21, 2002

Marine Expo, AR

(314) 567-0020

The Boat Show, AL

(January 18 - 20)

(256) 216-0125

January 23 - 27, 2002

Chesapeake Bay Boat Show, MD

(starts January 19)

(212) 922-1212

Chicago Boat, RV & Outdoor Show, IL

(312) 946-6262

Philadelphia Boat Show, PA

(610) 449-9910

Sail Expo, NJ (starts January 24)

(401) 481-0900

January 31 - February 3, 2002

Strictly Sail - Chicago, IL

(312) 946-6262

Cruising the Carolinas - continued from page 3

homeport. The area is rich in pirate lore and hosts a Blackbeard Festival in the spring including an attack of the harbor by pirate ships with cannons blazing.

The wonders of coastal North Carolina are easily experienced from the many waterways available to boaters. The history is captivating and the people friendly. All this put together makes this one of the most enjoyable boating experiences available anywhere.

To read an expanded version of this article, including contact information, please visit the Cruising Destinations section of ABA Online®.

www.americanboating.org/cruising.htm. ■

BOATER'S QUIZ

A Coast Guard Report Card

Every year, the Coast Guard is called upon to perform more tasks than the year before - and often with proportionally fewer resources. How much do you know about the best friend a boater ever had?

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. People aided in distress per day | 6. Value of drugs seized per day |
| a. 14 | a. \$35,000 |
| b. 85 | b. \$578,000 |
| c. 192 | c. \$9,600,000 |
| 2. Search/Rescue missions per day | 7. Illegal migrants stopped per day |
| a. 1 | a. 5 |
| b. 16 | b. 14 |
| c. 109 | c. 186 |
| 3. Lives saved per day | 8. Value of property saved per day |
| a. 1 | a. \$700,000 |
| b. 10 | b. \$2,800,000 |
| c. 50 | c. \$27,600,000 |
| 4. Toxic spill cases per day | 9. Active duty personnel |
| a. 2 | a. 35,000 |
| b. 20 | b. 350,000 |
| c. 200 | c. 1,210,000 |
| 5. Navigation aids maintained | 10. Auxiliary members |
| a. 5,000 | a. 35,000 |
| b. 10,000 | b. 350,000 |
| c. 50,000 | c. 1,200,000 |

Key to Answers: 1c; 2c; 3b; 4b; 5c; 6c; 7b; 8b; 9a; 10a

MEMBER BENEFITS

- **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 Econo Lodge** 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 Discount Calling Card:**
800-657-4711, ID#ABA
- **ABA Theme Park and Zoo** Discounts: 508-432-8846
- **Royal Caribbean and Celebrity Cruise Line** Discounts:
888-226-2100, ID#ABA
- **Passport Health:**
888-499-PASS (7277), ID#ABA
- **Citizens Against Crime** Discounts: 800-466-1010
- **ABA Travel Safety and Health Program:**
americanboating.org

***For a complete list of benefits, visit us at:
www.americanboating.org***

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