

The ABA Beacon

Publication for American Boating Association Members

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MEMBER BENEFITS

- **The ABA Beacon®**
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Get More Out of Boating - and All Your Travels - With ABA

Whether it's helping you find the best rates on financing and insuring your boat, or the best deal on a car rental or hotel room, ABA works hard to give you member benefits that quickly add up to significant savings. Great boating destinations, safety information, boat shows from coast to coast - it's all there for you. Got a question about boat repair, maintenance or operation? Just "Ask Tim" at www.americanboating.org. For latest updates, bookmark your ABA member website and check in often.

Boating Seattle

by *W. Lynn Seldon, Jr. - Boating Writer*

Quite simply, Seattle just may be the most water-oriented major city in the United States. That's great news for boaters.

Seattle's position on the protected waters of the Puget Sound, along with the mountainous backdrop, gives it one of the prettiest settings imaginable. Add lots of bays, inlets, canals, passages, lakes, and more, and you have a watery paradise.

Some highlights of Seattle boating include cruising Elliott Bay with the Olympic Mountains looming to the west, circling from Seattle to Lake Union to Lake Washington, and viewing the incredible houseboats and waterfront homes. But exploring Seattle by boat means dealing with northwest boating conditions, including large tidal changes and fast-changing winds, waves, and weather. Be sure to check the weather and only head out when appropriate for your skills and boat.

"Remember that accidents can happen even to careful boaters who do know their limits, and wearing a lifejacket is your best insurance should you be involved in an accident," says Mark Kenny, boating law enforcement coordinator for Washington State Parks. All boats are required to carry a U.S. Coast Guard-approved lifejacket of the appropriate size for each person on board, while children 12 years and younger are required to wear a lifejacket on the open deck of any boat under 19 feet.

Along with the many marinas, Seattle has an incredible number of public boat launches (www.cityofseattle.net lists more than a dozen). These can provide quick access to virtually every body of water in the Seattle area, from the huge bays to small lakes. In

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Save Money With ABA Boat Finance and Refinance Program

You've refinanced your home mortgage, but how about your boat loan? With interest rates as low as they are, now is an excellent time to refinance that loan or to purchase a boat. And ABA's Boat Finance Program is available to meet your boat financing needs.

ABA's Boat Finance Program is provided through a partnership with 1st Commercial Corporation of America, a leader and continuous innovator in the field of marine finance for over 36 years. Today the policies and practices they have created are standards of the industry and they offer some of the most competitive rates available. Whether you're purchasing or refinancing a small or large boat, these marine experts will take your loan transaction from application to closing and make it a quick, hassle-free experience.

Get your finance and insurance needs taken care of in one convenient place through the American Boating Association Insurance and Finance Programs at www.americanboating.org. Visit us at www.americanboating.org or call 888-222-5792 for details of this money saving program offering competitive loans for all types of vessels, nationwide. ■



Photo Courtesy of Seattle Convention and Visitors Bureau

The majestic Mount Rainier watches over pleasure boats on Puget Sound.

SUMMER IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER..... AND A USCG AUXILIARY BOATING COURSE MAY JUST BE THE TICKET

By Wayne Spivak, Branch Chief - National Press Corps, National Marketing and Public Affairs Department, U.S.C.G. Auxiliary

Warm weather days like the one's some of us have been having make all of us think about getting our boats ready. We start thinking of all the chores involved in making our craft seaworthy for the upcoming season. But of all the tasks that we have on our list, the one that never seems to make its way toward the top is EDUCATION.

The art and science of what we call "boating" changes with each new technological advance. Just look at the boating bible, Chapman's *Piloting Seamanship & Small Boat Handling*. Through the years, sections have grown and shrunk, been added and deleted.

Skills you may have learned have grown rusty, new gadgets have changed the way we apply our skills. But unless we update our skill sets, we may not be as safe a boater as we might be. Educational seminar and courses are the answer.

The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, with its 34,000 members, provides the boating public with fair number of boating courses. These courses range from *Boating Fun - Adventure on the Water* for the kindergarten child to the 3rd grader; to *Navigating with GPS*, for the adult who like his toys.

Here are some of the courses offered by the USCG Auxiliary:

Seminar Courses

- *Boating Fun - Adventure on the Water* - to teach the basic safety concepts to children in grades K-3.
- *Waypoints - A Guide to Boating Safely* - for older children and youths in grades 4-6.
- *Personal Watercraft* - for those who want a brief, very basic introduction to the safety issues involved when operating a PWC.
- *Navigating with GPS* - for those who want a brief, very basic introduction to navigating with GPS.

Multi-Lesson Courses

- *ABC -America's Boating Course* - oriented toward hunters, anglers, and beginning boaters who need to do home study.
- *Boating Safely* - oriented toward hunters, anglers, skiers and operators of PWCs.
- *Boating Skills and Seamanship* - for both beginning and experienced power boaters.
- *Sailing Fundamentals* - for both beginning and experienced sailors (also known as "Sailing and Seamanship").
- *Basic Coastal Navigation* - an introduction to coastal piloting.
- *Advanced Coastal Navigation* - for serious boaters who want to learn piloting techniques.

Not all courses are given at all locations or all the time. The courses offered depend on your area, and the volunteers that make up the Auxiliary. Check with your local Auxiliary Flotilla or check the national website at www.cgaux.org.

Save Money With the ABA Boat Insurance Program

Receive a free online quote for your boat insurance through the ABA Boat Insurance Program at www.americanboating.org, or you can call toll-free 877-229-7775.

Very competitive rates and coverages for many types of boats on a nationwide basis are offered.

ABA's Boat Insurance Program is provided through a partnership with American Marine Underwriters Agency, Inc. (AMU). AMU represents the world's leading "A+" rated insurance companies, placing your business only with companies who have earned this highest rating by A.M. Best's for being able to meet their financial obligations including claims payment. In other words, they'll be there when you need them.

By representing a number of the best carriers in the industry, AMU offers you the most competitive rates and broadest coverage available. AMU also saves you time by shopping your insurance for you. A part of the marine insurance industry for over 25 years, and boaters themselves, AMU is well qualified to meet your insurance needs. ■

Show Your Passion for Boating with ABA Personal Checks

ABA proudly announces the introduction of exclusive ABA personal checks and address labels from Identity Check Printers. These products offer a wonderful way to show your passion and support for ABA and America's proud boating history.

Featured designs include full color photographs or beautiful illustrations of lighthouses, powerboats, sailboats, and the American flag. Each design is accompanied by the ABA logo. So no matter what type of boater you are, there's a design that will appeal to you.

Each time you use them, you'll demonstrate your love of boating and your support of boating safety and a clean environment. You'll also appreciate that a percentage of each purchase goes directly to ABA in support of helping fulfill our mission to promote boating safety, affordability, growth and a clean environment.

Another benefit of these products is how they connect you to your passion for the water year round. Even when it's not boating season, it's always the right time for ABA checks and accessories.

View all of the designs and products online at www.americanboating.org and order yours today! ■

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.htm.

May 1 - 4

Pacific Powerboat Expo,
CA

800-818-9994

Springfest Boat Show,
MD

410-213-1121

May 2 - 4

**Kenai Peninsula Sport,
Recreation & Trade
Show, AK**

907-335-9423

May 15 - 18

**Emerald Coast Boat
Show, FL**

800-940-7642

May 16 - 18

**Delta Fest at Tower
Park, CA**

800-778-6937

May 16 - 19

Boat Show USA, MI

248-375-0138

May 17 - 18

**Anacortes Waterfront
Festival, WA**

360-293-7911

May 29 - June 1

**Dana Point Harbor
In-Water Boat Show, CA**
323-655-2010

May 30 - June 1

**Newport Spring Boat
Show, RI**
800-582-7846

June 5 - 8

Spring Boat Show, CA
714-633-7581

June 6 - 8

San Jose Boat Show, CA
800-818-9994

June 13 - 16

**South Florida Boat
Show, FL**
954-946-6164

June 26 - 29

**Marina del Rey
In-Water Boat Show, CA**
323-655-2010

July 18 - 20

**Clinton Harbor Boat
Show, CT**
860-529-2123

Boating Seattle

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in addition, Washington Street Day Moorage provides public floats where Washington Street meets Elliott Bay (tie-ups for up to ten hours, but no overnight mooring).

One great way to acclimatize yourself to Seattle's waterways is to try one of the routes with Washington State Ferries, the nation's largest ferry system. With 27 vessels serving ten routes, the ferries range from high-speed passenger boats to vessels that carry 2,500 passengers and 218 autos. The most popular and scenic routes are along the Seattle Waterfront: car ferries travel to Bremerton (on the Olympic Peninsula) and Bainbridge Island, with passenger-only ferries to Bremerton and Vashon Island.

Other great ferry options on Puget Sound include Mukilteo-Clinton (Whidby Island) and Edmonds-Kingston (Olympic Peninsula). Further a field, the Anacortes-San Juan Islands-Sydney route is a classic, winding from the Washington mainland through the beautiful San Juan Islands (with stops at four of the largest ones) to Vancouver Island (just north of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada). Argosy Cruises also offers several Seattle area get-acquainted sightseeing cruises.

A list of Seattle sightseeing options has to include: the stunning Seattle Waterfront (Pier 51 to Pier 70); Pike Place Market, where fishmongers juggle the fresh catch; Pioneer Square, the birthplace of Seattle that's now a trendy shopping and dining area; the Seattle Art Museum; and the Space Needle, the city's signature monument (with great 360-degree views of the watery surroundings).

As would be expected, there are several excellent water-oriented sightseeing attractions as well. Odyssey, The Maritime Discovery Center is situated on Pier 66 of the Seattle Waterfront, and features 44 interactive exhibits in four galleries. Visitors can take a "Virtual Kayak Journey" or practice loading ships with a high-tech crane simulator.

The Seattle Aquarium located on Pier 59, is the region's premier aquarium, with several permanent exhibits that include salmon, sea otters, Pacific Northwest tide pools, and more. In addition, the unique Center for Wooden Boats on the southern shore of Lake Union offers a free look at an array of classic wooden boats.

Maritime festivals and events are also big in Seattle. For instance, on the first Saturday in May each year since 1913, the city celebrates the official Opening Day of boating season with the opening of Montlake Bridge and a Parade of Boats with hundreds of power and sailboats, crew in full regalia. Festivities include races and a trophy ceremony. It's sponsored by the Seattle Yacht Club.

In mid-May, the Seattle Maritime Festival celebrates the city's water-based heritage with
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*American Boating Association members get
great savings and great service at Avis.*

As a member of the American Boating Association, you can save **5-25%** on daily, weekend and weekly car rentals with Avis. Whether you're traveling for business or pleasure, call Avis at **1-800-831-8000** for reservations and information or log on to **avis.com** or ABA Online®, **americanboating.org**. To receive your discount, be sure to mention your Avis Worldwide Discount (AWD) number: **B853101**. Renting from Avis means outstanding service and convenience, plus substantial discounts.



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lots of events that culminate in the popular Tug Boat Races, which are the largest in the U.S. During the winter (January), boaters warm up at the Seattle International Boat Show in Seahawks Stadium and Seattle Exhibition Hall - an annual event for more than 50 years. Running concurrently with this show (and again in May and September) is the Lake Union Boats Afloat Show, which features a wide array of watercraft afloat at Chandler's Cove on Lake Union. (For a nationwide listing of boat shows, visit the Boat Show section of the ABA website, www.americanboating.org/boatshows.htm)

The marina situation in Seattle couldn't be better for boaters. Shilshole Bay Marina is operated by the Port of Seattle and, at 1,500 slips, is the city's largest. The marina is located in the neighborhood of Ballard, in northwest Seattle at the Puget Sound entrance to Lake Washington Ship Canal. Along with full services, it offers stunning views of the sound and Olympic Mountains.

Elliott Bay Marina has 1,200 slips at the foot of Magnolia Bluff on Seattle's harbor. Along with full services, three dining establishments are right there, including Seattle's largest - Palisades, an 11,000-square-foot restaurant specializing in Northwest seafood and boasting spectacular views of the harbor, Seattle's skyline, Puget Sound, and the Olympic Mountains.

Of course, other small marinas, public ramps, and facilities for boaters are situated throughout the area. Seattle's Convention & Visitors Bureau (see below) can help boaters find the best bet for their boats and circumstances.

Seattle Details

For boating and tourism information, contact Seattle's Convention & Visitors Bureau at 206-461-5840 or visit www.seattle.org. In addition, the Washington Boating Safety Officers Association website, www.boatwashington.org, is a great resource.

Contact Information

- Washington State Ferries: 206-464-6400 or 888-808-7977
- Argosy Cruises: 206-623-1445
- Seattle Art Museum: 206-654-3100
- Space Needle: 206-443-2111
- Odyssey, The Maritime Discovery Center: 206-374-4000
- The Seattle Aquarium: 206-386-4320
- Center for Wooden Boats: 206-382-2628
- Seattle Yacht Club: 206-325-1000
- Seattle Maritime Festival: 206-461-5840
- Seattle International Boat Show: 206-634-0911
- Lake Union Boats Afloat Show: 206-748-0012
- Shilshole Bay Marina: 206-728-3006 or 800-728-3006
- Elliott Bay Marina: 206-285-4817 ■

BOATER'S QUIZ

Barometer Forecasting

Match the barometer reading and wind direction with the coming weather.

Barometer/Wind

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. 30.2 or higher, steady; wind SW/NW | a. Summer - rain in 1 day; Winter - rain or snow in 12 hours |
| 2. 30.1 to 30.2, steady; wind SW/NW | b. Fair for a few days, rising temperature |
| 3. 30.0, falling; wind NE/SE | c. Fair, but rain in 48 hours |
| 4. 30.1 to 30.2, falling; wind NE/SE | d. Fair, small temperature change |
| 5. 30.1 or higher, falling; wind NE/E | e. Wind and rain in 12 hours |
| 6. 29.8 or lower, falling fast; wind N/E | f. Fair for 1 or 2 days; steady temperature |
| 7. 30.1 to 30.2, rising; wind SW/NW | g. Rain in a few days |
| 8. 30.1 or higher, falling fast; wind NE/E | h. Summer - light winds, rain in 3 days; Winter - rain in 1 day |
| 9. 30.1 to 30.2, falling fast; wind SE/S | i. Heavy storm and rain warning; Winter - snow and low temperatures |
| 10. 30.2 or higher, falling; wind SW/NW | j. Wind and rain in 12 hours |

Id: 2f; 3g; 4f; 5b; 6t; 7c; 8a; 9e; 10b
Key to Answers

MEMBER BENEFITS

- **ABA Magazine Discounts:**
800-289-6247
- **ABA Custom Boating Apparel:**
800-480-2053
- **ABA CityPass Discounts**
- **Alamo Auto Rental Discounts:**
800-354-2322,
ID#679044
- **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 Discount Calling Card:**
800-657-4711, ID#ABA
- **ABA Theme Park, Zoo, and Ski Resort Discounts**
- **Royal Caribbean and Celebrity Cruise Line Discounts:**
888-226-2100, ID#8884567887
- **ABA Movie Discount Program**

All benefits can be accessed at:
americanboating.org

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