

# The ABA Beacon<sup>sm</sup>

American Boating Association • 16 Bank Street • Harwich Port, MA 02646

## Boating Safety

### Summer Thunder Storms

Beyond a certain age, nothing stops fun on the water better than unexpected soakings, suddenly violent waves, or any activity that can lead to a serious risk of falling out of the boat. And few events can end a good time on the water as precipitously as being hit by lightning.

These are all summertime risks, but they can vary greatly in degree of probability depending on your knowledge of - and respect for - the weather.

There may have been a time, way back before Odysseus, when ignorance of the elements was an excuse for mishap or disaster. But incredible modern-day refinements in satellite-based forecasting and communications technology have removed the last traces of an alibi for being caught on the water unawares. These days, if you didn't know what to expect it was because you didn't ask - or you just didn't take the time to learn.

#### Ask where? Learn what?

The Weather Channel is a good place to start. Along with its local forecasts, it provides good radar tracking, notification of small craft advisories, and other pertinent information that boater's can use. In most coastal areas, VHF broadcasts provide accurate, timely, local marine data on wind direction and speed, temperature, wave height, tides, and special advisories of both long-term and sudden changes. In the summertime, this service includes notification of current thunderstorm activity along with estimates of its future probability. In addition, with direct downloads from weather-mapping satellites, along with your VHF radio, CBs, ship-to-shore,



portable AM-FM radios and cellular telephones, you're only a moment away from everything you should ever need to know.

And that's not all. For the technology-deficient, toy-deprived or electronically unprepared, there is another reliable resource in the form of accumulated lore and common sense.

Since thunderstorms usually travel from west to east, boaters should keep an eye on the western sky. Calm usually does precede a storm, so can a mackerel sky. And yes, red skies at morning *are* a sailor's warning.

If you don't have a phone, can't hear the crackling on the AM radio and there is haze in the path of the roiling clouds, one of the best indicators of increased electrical activity in the area is still the hair on your forearms or on the back of your neck: when it starts to rise, it's well past time to get moving.

You say you shave your arms and there isn't enough hair left on your head to throw a shadow? Well, when caught in foul weather, you should immediately put on your life jacket, reduce the speed of the boat and head for the nearest lee shore or safe harbor. Point the bow at a slight angle into the waves, keeping your passengers low and near the midship point to reduce the risk of battering from the seesaw motion of the boat.

If the engine fails, anchor by the bow or, in deep water, deploy a sea anchor (anything that will slow your drift with underwater drag, such as a bucket or an empty bait box) from the stern. Prayer is permitted. Learn from the experience. ☺

### ABA Associate Member Benefits

- The ABA Beacon<sup>sm</sup> Newsletter
- ABA Marine Insurance Program: 800-665-1243
- ABA Visa<sup>®</sup> Credit Card
- ABA Signature Items Catalog: 800-480-2053
- ABA Calling Card: 800-657-4711
- ABA Entertainment Discounts: 301-865-1776

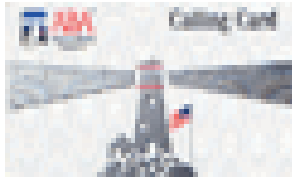
## ABA Offers New Benefits to Members

### ABA Visa® Photo Card

Now you can put your favorite boating picture on your ABA Visa - at no extra cost! This could be a picture of your own boat or one of you and your family enjoying a day on the water or of your dream boat - it's your choice! All you have to do is send in your favorite boating snapshot to First USA Bank, the card issuer, and they'll create your very own photo credit card. Your original photo should be no larger than 3" x 5" and no smaller than 2" x 2", and First USA will not be able to return it to you. To get your very own ABA Photo Card, simply call First USA at 800-FIRST USA. While they print your new card, you can continue to use your original ABA Visa for purchases and to access all of your ABA member benefits and privileges.

### ABA Calling Card

According to *Money Magazine*, "If you're using a standard calling card provided by the 'Big Three' you're being ripped off!" ABA is delighted to offer you a money-saving alternative with the *ABA Calling Card*. This is a free benefit that offers a 17.5 cents per minute rate anytime, anywhere within the continental U.S. with no per call surcharge. This means tremendous savings for you! For instance, a five minute call with AT&T, MCI, or Sprint will cost from \$2.49<sup>+</sup> to \$2.55<sup>+</sup>, but with the *ABA Calling Card* your charge will only be \$.88<sup>+</sup> (this also beats a five minute 1-800 COLLECT call that would be \$2.09<sup>+</sup>). There are no monthly fees or minimum monthly usage required and there is never a per call surcharge. Plus, every time you use the card, you help support ABA as it fulfills its mission. (\*Prices do not include taxes and fees collected for pay phone owners.)



To order your free *ABA Calling Card*, simply call DC Enterprises toll free at 800-657-4711 today!

### ABA Entertainment Discounts

ABA is delighted to offer its members entertainment discounts from major theme and amusement parks across the country.

**Anheuser-Busch Theme Parks®** - Discounts of \$3-5 are available to ABA members at all Anheuser-Busch Theme Parks across the country such as Busch Gardens Williamsburg, VA, and Tampa, FL; Sea World of Orlando, FL, San Diego, CA, Aurora, OH, and San Antonio, TX; Water Country USA in Williamsburg, VA; Adventure Island in Tampa, FL; and Sesame Place in Langhorne, PA. Plus, discounts are available at a number of hotels and with Alamo® Rent-A-Car. Each of these parks features unique family fun ranging from thrilling rides such as roller coasters and water rides to great entertainment of the human and animal persuasion, kiddie rides, pools and water attractions, and more! Visit their web site at [www.4adventure.com](http://www.4adventure.com).



### Universal Studios® -

Universal Studios has two parks, one in Orlando, FL, and the other in Hollywood, CA, offering 10% discounts to ABA members on admission and merchandise at both parks plus discounts of 10-50% at area hotels. Experience more than 40 rides, shows, movie sets and attractions including JAWS®, E.T. Adventure®, Kongfrontation®, Back To The Future®... The Ride, and the world's first 3-D cyber-adventure TERMINATOR 2: 3-D BATTLE ACROSS TIME®. And in 1998, it's TWISTER! Ride It Out, at Universal Studios Florida®. For general park information and production schedules, you can



*Continued on page 4*

## Boater Quiz

### Name The Knots -



### Quiz Answers

a. Square or reef knot; b. granny knot; c. overhand knot; d. figure 8 knot; e. single bowknot; f. double bowknot; g. boat knot; h. surgeon's knot.

## Boat Shows

### July 9-12

Houston Summer Boat Show, TX  
(713) 526-6361

### July 17-19

Clinton Harbor Boat Show, CT  
(860) 529-2123

### July 21-26

Dallas Summer Boat Show, TX  
(972) 550-1052

### July 31 - August 9

American Boating Jubilee, CA  
(714) 633-7581

### August 19-23

Seattle Boats Afloat Show, WA  
(206) 634-0911

### August 20-23

Georgia Boat & Sports Show, GA  
(305) 531-8410

Racine In-Water Boat Show, WI  
(312) 946-6262

### August 27-30

Michigan City In-Water Boat Show, MI  
(216) 899-5009

### September 4-7

Rendezvous Miles Marker Zero/Portside Fall Boat Show, VA  
(757) 393-9933

### September 10-13

Atlantic City In-Water Powerboat Show, NJ  
(215) 732-8001

### September 11-13

Carolina Fall Boat Show & Sale, NC  
(910) 855-0208  
Carolina Fishin' & Huntin' Show & Boat Sale, NC  
(912) 437-6092

### September 16-20

North American Sail and Power Boat Show, OH  
(216) 899-5009

### September 17-20

Fall Boat Show, IN  
(317) 546-4344  
Sunfest Boat Show, MD  
(410) 213-1121

Newport International Boat Show, RI  
(401) 846-1600

### September 19-27

Boat Show USA-Fall, MI  
(810) 463-4581

### September 24-27

Lido Yacht Expo, CA  
(714) 757-5959  
Norwalk International In-Water Boat Show, CT  
(212) 922-1212



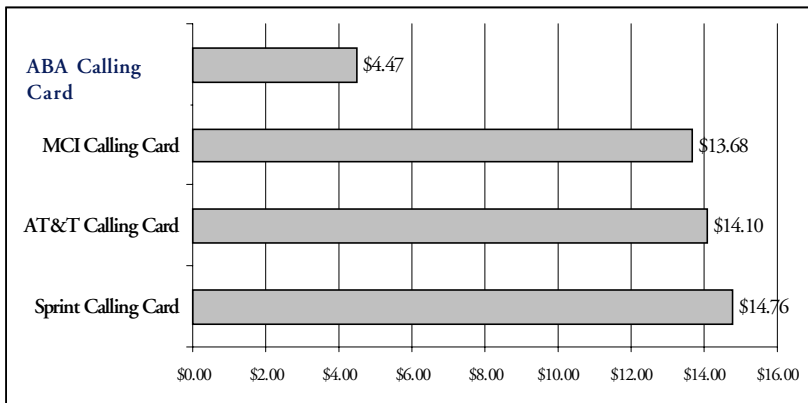
## Calling Card . . .

Still the BEST!!

Charges based on six 5-minute calls.

*Look and compare . . .*

Charges are based on using standard calling cards and making daytime interstate calls. These rates include carrier per-call surcharges but do not include charges if calls are made from a pay phone.



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## Tilt!

Fresh-water boaters who change their venue to the ocean can run into some unexpected and potentially expensive problems in the new marine environment.

Most obviously, oceans have tides and currents which create an unfamiliar dynamic for most habitués of ponds or moderate-sized lakes. A chop or a rip calls for different steering than in more static water, and an unwary boater who doesn't play out enough slack on the line when anchoring on the low can find the anchor has been silently lifted by a rising tide. Similarly, a dropping tide can strand a boat for long hours on its side on a sandflat, or worse, can trap everyone aboard as it mires keel-deep in viscous mud.


Ocean distances can be greater as well, with an associated risk of a novice captain underestimating

transit times, available daylight and fuel requirements. Those same distances can permit greater wave buildup, not only during turbulent weather but in its aftermath. And of course wind behaves differently over water than over land, and over large bodies than over small.

Perhaps less obvious are problems of the ocean's salinity and marine life. Engines and other corrodible surfaces must be flushed or rinsed and in some cases properly grounded against salt-accelerated electrolysis. Tilttable engines should be raised so all parts are out of the water between uses, not just against corrosion but to discourage the build-up of algae and such hard-shelled hangers-on as barnacles and mollusk seed. Many a motor has been destroyed by damage to the pump after an invasion of the cooling system via a submerged lower unit. ☹

## ABA Offers New Benefits to Members - continued from page 2

call 407-363-8000 or visit their web site at [www.usf.com](http://www.usf.com).

**HERSHEYPARK®** in Hershey, PA, offers \$4-5 discounts on admission as well as discounts on food and merchandise within the park to ABA members. HERSHEY PARK boasts more than 55 rides in a beautiful 110-acre setting, including six thrill-filled roller coasters, six drenching water rides, more than 20 delightful kiddie rides, 

entertainment, restaurants, snack shops, games, gift shops, and more. Plus, they have ZOOAMERICA® North American Wildlife Park, Hershey's Chocolate World® - the official visitors center of the Hershey Foods Corporation, Hershey Museum, and Founders Hall - a tribute to Milton and Catherine Hershey. Find out more by visiting their web site at [www.hersheypark.com](http://www.hersheypark.com).

**Knott's Berry Farm®** in Buena Park, CA, offers \$5-7 discounts to ABA members on admission, food, and merchandise plus discounts from Alamo® Rent-A-Car and other exclusive member benefits. Knott's 150 acre park features state-of-the-art thrill rides, authentic Old West stagecoaches, an 1880s passenger train, a turn-of-the-century Grand Carousel, and a wide variety of outstanding live entertainment and shows, fascinating historic and educational exhibits, over 75 years of world-famous dining and hospitality, and many one-of-a-kind specialty shops and stores. Visit Knott's web site at [www.knotts.com](http://www.knotts.com)

To get your special ABA member discounts at any of these parks, simply call the ABA Maryland office at 301-865-1776. We'll mail you everything you need and you'll be on your way! ☹

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Low Profile only \$16.95  
Pro Style only \$14.95

Price includes your boat name on the front of the cap with American Boating Association on the back. Available in a variety of colors.

**ORDER YOURS TODAY! 800-480-2053**

Ask for a free copy of the ABA Catalog

