

The ABA Beacon®

Publication for American Boating Association Members

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MEMBER BENEFITS

- *The ABA Beacon*®
- *Seamanship Training*® E-Newsletter
- *ABA Online*®: All benefits can be accessed at americanboating.org
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Check It Out - Two Great Member Benefits From ABA!

If you're ready to take the plunge on a new boat or RV, the **ABA Boat and RV Finance Programs** will have you under way in no time, with great rates and great service. And whether you're paying for a new boat, or just paying monthly bills, tell the world you'd rather be boating, by using **personal checks** with beautiful, full-color photos of powerboats, sailboats, lighthouses – even a photo of your own boat. Details inside and at www.americanboating.org. Thanks for your support!

How to Use Radar to Target Fish-Finding Birds

Reprinted with permission from BoatersWorld.com

To catch fish you need to know where to find them, and when it comes to finding fish, marine birds are the masters. Locate some diving birds, and chances are there will be a school of voraciously feeding game fish just below them. When “working” birds can be spotted on the horizon, motoring over to get in on the angling action is an easy task. But what if you don't see any birds – are you out of luck? Not if you have bird-tracking radar on board. The following tips from marine electronics manufacturer Furuno USA will help you use your radar, a tool normally reserved for collision avoidance, to target birds that will lead you to the fish.

The first thing to think of when considering bird-tracking radar is antenna beamwidth. Remember that the narrower the beamwidth, the greater target discrimination you will have. For this reason, dome antennas are not as adept at tracking birds as a comparable open-array antenna. As the length of the antenna radiator increases, beamwidth becomes narrower, so a larger antenna will invariably offer better target discrimination.

Experience and practice will make you a bird-finding “machine,” but you need to start with the basics. For the novice, it is best to practice these techniques on a clear day with calm seas. It's easiest to start off by targeting a flock of birds that you can visually locate. To target the birds, set the radar to mid- or long-range. Next, increase the Gain control until you see “noise” on the display. This will appear as a blanket of small specks. You will need to leave the Gain turned all the way up, thus setting the receiver for maximum sensitivity in order to detect birds. Resist the temptation to turn up the AC/Sea or AC/Rain to drop out the noise. Flocks of birds may look like dense, recurring noise rather than a solid target, but you should be able to see them clearly. This is what you'll be looking for when you don't have any visual cues as to where the birds are feeding.

If your radar is capable of operating in True Motion, do so. You will be stabilizing the display, and you'll be able to tell if the flock is traveling in a straight line looking for bait pods, or if the birds have found their target school and are currently feeding. When operating your radar in Head Up or True Motion mode, be sure to turn on your target trail function and set it for long trails to better track traveling flocks.

By using your equipment properly, you should be able to pinpoint feeding birds up to six miles or more away. Practice these techniques for finding birds with your radar, and in no time at all you'll be able to pinpoint productive fishing spots just like the pros. ■

Show Your Passion for Boating with ABA Personal Boat Checks

ABA members can order 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, the American flag, or a photo of your own boat. 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

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VANCOUVER - O CANADA!

by Lynn Seldon, Boating Writer

Quite simply, Vancouver is one of North America's most cosmopolitan cities - and it just happens to be a great boating destination as well! Located in the southwest corner of British Columbia (the westernmost of Canada's ten provinces), the city of Vancouver is on the western end of a peninsula that is a major extension of the Fraser River's delta - which juts into the Pacific Ocean and allows easy boating.

Vancouver's weather is among the mildest in Canada. From spring to fall (the best boating seasons), the days are typically warm and sunny. The U.S. border is just 24 miles south of downtown Vancouver (visit www.cbsa-asfa.gc.ca for the relatively simple Canada Border Services Agency boater reporting steps).

Once there, a variety of marinas and boater services make Vancouver very easy for visiting boaters. Popular marinas in and around the city include: Coal Harbour Marina (www.coalharbourmarina.retrix.com); Granville Island's Pelican Bay Marina (www.globalairphotos.com/pelican_bay_marina); and Sewell's Marina (www.sewellsmarina.com), which is handy for access to the Gulf Islands and Howe Sound. In addition, the City of Vancouver operates two great municipal marinas: Burrard Bridge Civic Marina and Heather Civic Marina (www.Vancouver.ca/parks/info/marinas/index.htm). Those who'd rather fly in and rent a boat should contact Cooper Boating (www.cooperboating.com).

From the bustling port at Canada Place (mostly used by cruise ships), it's easy to explore downtown Vancouver's many attractions by foot. Further afield, varied public transportation makes it easy to take in many other must-sees.

The Tourism Vancouver "Touristinfo Centre" office, located just across from Canada Place at the Plaza Level of 200 Burrard Street, is a great place to stop for lots of printed information--as well as getting any visiting boater questions answered. From there, it's just a short stroll to historic Gastown, the birthplace of Vancouver.

Named after a talkative Yorkshire-born saloon owner, John "Gassy Jack" Deighton, Gastown is best known for its Steam Clock, which provides a whistle and steam show every 15 minutes (it used to play "O Canada," but no longer does). However, Gastown also features local galleries of native art, photography, and local artisans, Storyeum ("The Theatre Under the Cars" highlights Canada's west coast history with live theatrical presentations on unique underground stages), and several excellent restaurants.

Next, it's a short walk to Vancouver's Chinatown, which is the third largest in North America (behind San Francisco and New York City). Visitors and residents alike head to Chinatown to peer in the steamy windows of won-ton houses or the meat stores hung with displays of crimson Chinese barbecued ducks, as well as exploring the small stalls selling exotic roots, jade, silk, and novelties.

For a break from the hustle and bustle of Chinatown, head for the peaceful Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden at 578 Carrall Street. Built at a cost of more than \$5.3 million back in 1986, the garden was the first full-scale classical Chinese garden built outside China. More than 50 skilled artisans came from China with materials and traditional tools to build this retreat in 13 months. A visit to Chinatown also wouldn't be complete without a traditional lunch or dinner at one of the numerous restaurants. Science World British Columbia is nearby, with hands-on exhibits, cyclone chambers,



Aerial view of Vancouver and port at Canada Place.

Photo courtesy of Tourism Vancouver

Boat and RV Financing Available to ABA

Members

Whether your dreams include purchasing your first boat or RV, refinancing your existing one, or upgrading, ABA's Boat and RV Finance Programs can help make your dreams a reality. ABA has partnered with a nationwide boat and RV finance company, and is pleased to offer financing for a full range of boats and RVs. Key features of the programs are:

- A detailed understanding of the boat and RV financing markets;
- Boat loans from \$10,000 to \$10,000,000;
- RV, fifth wheel, and travel trailer loans from \$25,000 - \$2,500,000;
- Competitive rates;
- Fast, exceptional service;
- Quick to fill out and easy to understand paperwork.

For further details about either financing program visit

www.americanboating.org.

Call 877-222-0244 for further information about boat financing or call 866-789-4511 for further information about RV financing. ■

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American Boating Association members now enjoy a 5% discount on products from BoatersWorld.com! There are no coupons, no codes, and no hassles. Just log into the Members Only section, www.americanboating.org/login.asp and shop BoatersWorld.com by clicking on the blue starburst on the homepage. The 5% discount will ONLY be applied if you access BoatersWorld.com through ABA Online®.

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PRODUCT INFORMATION

Innovative Bioremediation Products for a Cleaner Water Supply



Clean Water Solutions, Inc. has created an innovative and cutting-edge line of products that efficiently bioremediate oil and other pollutants. Their products target bilges of boats, marinas, catch basins, septic tanks, and holding tanks - anywhere that hydrocarbons are a problem. These products are designed to reclaim and protect our most essential environmental investment, our global water supply - both fresh and salt. This is in line with part of the American Boating Association's mission - to promote a clean environment.

CWSI's environmentally friendly products utilize naturally occurring Archaea microbes, the strongest known to mankind, to bioremediate hydrocarbons such as gas, oil, kerosene, and grease. CWSI converts them into tablet form and inserts them into either a biodegradable or an open-cell foam carrier, which absorbs oil. The microbes eat hydrocarbons and convert them into beneficial fatty acids, which are food for fish and plants, thus eliminating the use of messy, oily rags. The microbes multiply and remain active for 60 to 90 days without the need to clean, scrub, or fuss.

Products include oil eradicators in a variety of sizes and microbial powders. Visit www.cwsius.com or call 401-846-4141 for further information. ■

ON THE HORIZON

Boat Shows

Representative boat shows are listed below. We recommend that you contact the show to confirm the information as dates can change without prior notice. For a full boat show listing and to link to boat show websites, please visit www.americanboating.org/boatshows.asp.

July 13-16

- Ventura County Boat Show, CA

July 14-16

- Clinton Harbor Boat Show, CT

July 14-18

- Wine Country Classic Boat Show, NY

July 15

- Festival of Oar, Paddle and Sail, NY

July 18-23

- Greater Jacksonville Kingfish Tournament, FL

July 20-23

- San Diego Summer Boat Sale, CA

July 29

- Newburyport Boat Parade, MA

July 29

- Antique and Classic Boat Show, NH

August 3-10

- North Lake Tahoe Wooden Boat Week, CA

August 4-6

- Austin Summer Boat Show, TX

- Mid-Summer Boat Show & Sale, NC

- Antique Boat Show & Auction, NY

August 11-12

- Smith Mountain Lake Antique & Classic Boat Show, VA

- Thompson Antique & Classic Boat Rally, WI

August 11-13

- Birmingham Fall Boat & RV Show, AL

August 11-14

- Hot Summer Boat Show, FL

August 24-27

- Michigan City In-Water Boat Show, IN

August 25-27

- Wooden Boat Show, RI
- Raleigh Fall Boat Show & Sale, NC

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shadow walls, and the Alcan OMNIMAX Theatre among many highlights at the province's premier science center. From here, it's easy to board the water taxi for a short ride over to get-to-see Granville Island (the more active can actually walk the boardwalk that connects the Science Center to the popular False Creek waterfront neighborhood of Yaletown, as well as Granville Island).

Famed for the Granville Island Public Market featuring seafood, fresh produce, and much more, Granville Island also offers lots of artist's studios, craft galleries, other varied shopping, and many interesting restaurants. Those with certain special interests might want to check out the Granville Island

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Need a Better Rate on Your Boat Loan or Insurance?

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Valuable benefits for members of the American Boating Association



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

Show your passion... continued from page 1

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/checks.asp and order yours today! ■

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Model Ships Museum or the Granville Island Model Trains Museum (both in one location) - plus, Canada's first microbrewery, Granville Island Brewing.

Heading back across Granville Bridge and along Granville Street, Robson Street is the place to head for some serious shopping, dining, and people-watching. Many locals and visitors call Robson Street "Rodeo Drive North."

Robson Street leads to sprawling Stanley Park, which Vancouver visitors and locals all love. Highlights of this 1,000-acre forested park have to include: horse-drawn tours; stroll or bike the 6.5-mile Seawall; the Vancouver Aquarium Marine Science Centre (Canada's largest aquarium); the views from Prospect Point; the beaches of English Bay; and the Totem Poles (originally part of a proposed "Indian Village").

Visiting boaters in search of more area history should head to the interesting Vancouver Museum in Vanier Park, where (in the same building) the H.R. MacMillan Space Centre and the province's first full-motion space simulator also await futurists. Nearby, the Vancouver Maritime Museum features lots of local seafaring historical exhibits that are definitely appropriate for this boater-friendly city.

For further information, contact Tourism Vancouver, 200 Burrard Street, Suite 210, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada V6C 3L6; 604-683-2000; or log on to www.tourismvancouver.com. For those who can time their visit, the late-July and early-August Celebration of Light (www.celebration-of-light.com) is a water-based fireworks festival. ■

BOATER'S QUIZ

Wind Talk

Regardless of whether your boat is moved by sail or power - or by both - a major factor in the safety and enjoyment of your time on the water is the wind. Some of these wind-related terms may be more familiar than others. Try to match them with their meanings. For more quizzes on boating, go to www.americanboating.org.

1. A "wind dog" is similar to a:
 - a. Sea dog
 - b. Sun dog
 - c. Bone in the teeth
2. "Before the wind" means:
 - a. Waiting for a breeze
 - b. The starting line of a race
 - c. The wind is from the aft
3. "By the wind" means:
 - a. Close hauled
 - b. < 90° from wind direction
 - c. Disabled engine
4. "Toward the wind" denotes a:
 - a. Change in height of sails
 - b. Change in weather
 - c. Change in course
5. "Soldier's wind" means:
 - a. Gale force
 - b. Gusts producing whitecaps
 - c. Easy sailing conditions
6. "Shake in the wind" means to:
 - a. Shiver a ship's timbers
 - b. Be indecisive
 - c. Luff so upper sails flap
7. To "wind a ship" entails:
 - a. Hand-cranking winches
 - b. Turning 180°
 - c. Reefing the sail(s)
8. A synonym for "wind gauge" is:
 - a. Anemometer
 - b. Wet finger
 - c. Telltale
9. "In the teeth of the wind" means the same thing as:
 - a. Hoisting the throat
 - b. Twisting the nose
 - c. Sailing in the wind's eye
10. "Downwind" is:
 - a. To the port
 - b. South
 - c. Leeward

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

MEMBER BENEFITS

- **Lakeland Boating Magazine Discount:**
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- **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:**
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- **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 Theme Park and Zoo Discounts**
- **ABA Ski Resort Discounts**
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All benefits can be accessed at:
www.americanboating.org



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