

The ABA Beacon[®]

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15% Discount at Boat Shows for ABA Members

Although the 2008 boating season has yet to start, we can still get our boating “fix” by attending any number of boat shows going on over the winter and spring months. And because you’re an ABA member, you can save 15% on e-ticket adult admissions to the National Marine Manufacturers Association-sponsored (NMMA) boat shows across the country!

Visit www.americanboating.org/boatshow_offer.asp for a list of shows eligible for the 15% discount. To order your tickets, click on the “Order Tickets” button from this page and follow the prompts from there. Once you are linked to the show you want tickets for, you’ll purchase them online and print the tickets right from your printer. Doesn’t get any easier than that! ■

Twelve Great Gift Ideas for Boaters from the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary

As the holidays draw near, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary would like to offer some holiday gift ideas for boaters to help them stay safe all year long.

One of the best gift ideas for boaters is to sign them up for a boating safety course. Knowledge is power, and it has been statistically shown that boaters who have taken a safety class are far less likely to be involved in a boating mishap or fatality. Course topics include basic boat handling, required and recommended safety equipment, navigational rules and dealing with boating emergencies. To learn more, call 877-875-6296, or visit the USCGAUX Boating Safety Class page at: http://nws.cgaux.org/visitors/pe_visitor/class_finder/index.html.

One of the most valuable gifts for boaters doesn’t cost anything but time - a free vessel safety check (VSC) with the local Coast Guard Auxiliary. An Auxiliarist will examine your vessel to ensure compliance with federal, state and local safety requirements before getting underway. For more information or to schedule a VSC, call 800-368-5647, or visit <http://safetyseal.net> and click on “I WANT A VSC.”

Ten other great gift ideas to help keep boaters safe include:

- Sleek, lightweight, and comfortable inflatable life jackets (personal flotation devices - PFDs)
- A carbon monoxide detector
- Emergency signaling kits -- flares, signal mirror, whistle, etc.
- Kill switch leash -- kills the engine if the boater falls overboard
- Up-to-date navigational charts and/or a handheld GPS unit
- Navigation tools and calculators
- Hand-held VHF marine radio with extra batteries
- Personal emergency position indicating radio beacons (PEPIRBs)
- Tool kit and spare parts for boats
- First Aid kit, sunscreen, sunglasses, food and water

The price range for these items runs from under \$10, up to several hundred dollars, but giving the gift of safety to a friend or loved one is priceless.

The Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary recommend these gifts in the effort to save lives and reduce mishaps on America’s waterways. ■

Boater Quiz - Distress Signals

Which of the following are legitimate marine distress signals, and which aren’t?

1. A gunshot or similar detonation at one-minute intervals
2. A continuous blast on the foghorn or similar device
3. Red-star rockets or shells fired singly at short intervals
4. Any form of SOS by radiotelegraph
5. Mayday on a telephone or voice radio
6. Flying any square flag with a ball- like object above or below it
7. Flames on deck, as from a barrel of burning oil or tar
8. Handheld or rocket parachute red flare
9. Orange smoke
10. Slow, repetitive flapping of straight arms
11. Radiotelegraph alarm
12. Radiotelephone alarm
13. Radio beacon position indicator
14. Dye marker in water

Key to answers: Each one is a legitimate distress signal, although some are more effective and better recognized than others. To transmit or exhibit any one of these signals for any other purpose than to call for help is against the law.

Clean Boating Tips

Reprinted with permission from Virginia Clean Marina Program

Contain Trash

- Do not let trash get thrown or blown overboard.
- If trash blows overboard, retrieve it.

Recycle

- Recycle cans, glass, plastic, newspaper, antifreeze, oil, and lead batteries.
- Bring used monofilament fishing line to recycling bins at your marina or tackle shop.

Fuel Cautiously

- Remember, fuel expands as it warms up.
- Fill your tank just before leaving on a trip.

Control Oil in the Bilge

- Place an oil absorbent pad under the engine.
- Secure fuel hoses to prevent chafing and leaks.

Properly Dispose of Oil Absorbent Materials

- If the pad is saturated with gas, allow it to air dry. Reuse.
- Bio-remediating bilge booms should not be put in plastic bags. Discard in regular trash.

Clean Gently

- Wash your boat frequently with a sponge and plain water.
- Use detergents sparingly.

Maintain Your Vessel Wisely

- Collect all paint chips, dust, and residue. Dispose in regular trash.
- Share leftover paint and varnish.

Sewage

- Never discharge raw sewage in U.S. territorial waters.
- Use restrooms on shore.

Dispose of Fish Waste Properly

- Do not throw fish waste into marina waters.
- Discard waste over deep water or in the trash.

Protect Sensitive Habitat

- Proceed slowly in shallow areas.
- Do not disturb wildlife.

Be a Responsible Boater

- Learn about environmentally safe products and practices.
- Obey laws governing speeding, littering, and discharge.

This is an abridged version of *Clean Boating Tips*. You can view all the tips at www.americanboating.org/clean.asp.

MEMBER BENEFITS

Are you missing out on valuable ABA member benefits? Following is just a snapshot of member benefits available to you. For a full listing, please visit www.americanboating.org.

- Safe & Clean Boating Information
- 5% Discount at BoatersWorld.com
- *Boating Life* Magazine
- Boat Maintenance & Repair Program
- ABA Marina Discounts
- ABA Boat Insurance: 800-477-7140
- ABA Boat & RV Financing: Boat - 877-222-0244, RV - 866-789-4511
- Boat Value Calculator
- Marine Manufacturers Information
- Boat Towing and Education Laws
- Cruising Guide Discounts
- Travel Discounts

PRODUCT INFORMATION

Garmin GPSMAP 430



If you're looking for a space-saving chartplotter you launch right out of the box, look no further than industry leader Garmin and their GPSMAP 430. The 430 comes pre-loaded with coast-to-coast cartography of inland U.S. waters, which are detailed on an ultra-bright 4" QVGA display utilizing a streamlined user interface. More than 5,300 lakes are covered, including shoreline, depth contours, navigational aids, and more. Garmin's Inland Lakes Vision provides advanced features for 300 popular lakes. Add-ons include sonar (430s), XM Satellite Weather (430x and 430sx), and BlueChart g2 Vision (offshore chartplotting with an SD card).

Smart ABA members shop for their GPS and all their boating merchandise online with BoatersWorld.com because they get an incredible selection, competitive pricing, the convenience of online shopping - and a 5% discount when they access the site through www.americanboating.org! Along with great deals, the Boaters World website features a gift store, a clearance center, auctions, and many helpful boating links.

Note - the discount does not apply if ABA members go directly to BoatersWorld.com or visit one of many Boaters World stores! ■

Experience the Joy of Boating with ABA Checks!

Strengthen your support of safe, affordable, environmentally friendly and fun boating with American Boating Association checks and accessories. As a member of ABA, you will receive FREE shipping and handling on your order.

- Exclusive designs for ABA
- Low direct-to-consumer pricing
- Checks are guaranteed to work with your bank

Checks printed in full color!



9K53 ABA Powerboat 2 (1 design)



9K50 ABA Sailboat 1 (1 design)



9K54 ABA Lighthouses (4 designs)

To receive your ABA discount, mention code 9K6483 when placing your order through Identity Check Printers at 1-800-874-5910*.

*FREE SHIPPING & HANDLING OFFER APPLIES TO PHONE ORDERS ONLY.