

The ABA Beacon[®]

Publication for American Boating Association Associate Members

Boating Destination

Cruising The Great Lakes - 2nd in a Series : Lake Michigan

by W. Lynn Seldon, Jr. - Boating and Travel Writer

As profiled in the last issue in overview fashion, there may be no better freshwater boating in the world than in the Great Lakes region. This incredibly varied part of North America features great cruising and a wide range of options on and off the water. Both veteran and beginner boaters may be surprised to learn that, taken together, the Great Lakes comprise the largest body of freshwater in the world with nearly 10,000 miles of shoreline!

There is perhaps no better sample of Great Lakes boating than Lake Michigan. With options ranging from big cities like Chicago and Milwaukee to many tiny marinas and quiet coastlines with few or any other boaters in sight, Lake Michigan provides a perfect introduction to the Great Lakes.



A view of Lake Michigan from Chicago

Along with other major metropolitan areas like Manhattan and Miami, Chicago is big city boating at its best. Thanks to a new harbor just opened in May, this Midwestern boater's mecca now features nine harbors spaced relatively evenly along its approximate 30 miles of Windy City waterfront. With more than 5,100 slips and moorings,

Chicago now offers the largest recreational harbor system in the country (eclipsing Long Beach, California).

Dedicated May 15th, the new harbor (currently called Millennium Harbor, 312-747-2623, but official name not available at press time) is located along Lakeshore Drive between Randolph and Monroe Streets. Other great bases downtown are Monroe Harbor, 312-742-7643, and Burnham Harbor 312-747-7009. From here,

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ABA Member Benefits

- The ABA Beacon[®] Newsletter
- ABA Online[™]: www.americanboating.org
- ABA Visa[®] Credit Card: 800-FIRSTUSA
- ABA Signature Items Catalog: 800-480-2053
- Lakeland Boating Magazine Discount: 800-827-0289, #ZABA
- Great Lakes Ports O' Call cruising guides 800-892-9342, #ZABA
- ABA Theme Park and Zoo Discounts: 508-432-8846
- Avis Auto Rental Discounts: 800-331-1212, AWD# B853101
- Enterprise Rent-A-Car Discounts: 508-432-8846
- Comfort Inn, Comfort Suites, Clarion, Sleep Inn, Quality Inn, MainStay Suites, Rodeway Inn, and Econo Lodge Discounts: 800-424-6423, #00058336
- ABA Calling Card: 800-657-4711
- Royal Caribbean and Celebrity Cruise Line Discounts: 888-226-2100, #ABA
- 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
- iWant.com: www.americanboating.org
- Movie Discount Program: 800-565-3712 or www.americanboating.org Reference code CORP073100 and member I.D. #99110303
- Passport Health: 888-499-PASS (7277) I.D. #ABA
- Citizens Against Crime Discounts: 800-466-1010
- ABA Travel Safety and Advisory Pamphlets: 508-432-8846

You can access all of these benefits at www.americanboating.org

Enterprise® Added to ABA Auto Rental Discount Program

ABA is proud to announce a partnership with Enterprise® Rent-A-Car. ABA members can now rent a car with Enterprise and receive a special discounted rate! This benefit is currently offered in select locations, but ABA is at work to expand this benefit nationwide. The states (listed alphabetically) with discounted rates are: California (southern) – discount code CG9023, District of Columbia - discount code W20527, Central Florida (Orlando area) – discount code KC4551, South Florida (east coast) – discount code HC0650, Maine – discount code GB8412, Maryland (Baltimore and metro area) – discount code GB8412, Maryland (points NW of DC) - discount code W20527, Massachusetts – discount code GB8412, New Hampshire – discount code GB8412, New Mexico – discount code L63786,

Rhode Island – discount code GB8412, Texas (except El Paso) – discount code K1363S, Texas (El Paso area) – discount code L63786, Virginia (northern) - discount code W20527, West Virginia (Martinsburg) - discount code W20527. To receive your discount, you must call the local office of Enterprise Rent-A-Car where you will be picking up the car and identify yourself as a Corporate Class member. You must also make your reservation 48 hours in advance of pick up. For a listing of local office phone numbers, visit www.americanboating.org and click on *ABA Auto Rental Discount Program*, or call ABA at 508-432-8846. Make sure to keep checking our website and your credit card statements for additional locations. ☺

Six Flags® Theme Parks and Los Angeles Zoo Added to ABA Theme Park and Zoo Discount Program

Some of the most popular theme parks in the country have been added to the *ABA Theme Park and Zoo Discount Program*. As an ABA member, you can receive free discount admission coupons to the following Six Flags locations (listed alphabetically, by state): Concord, CA; Valencia, CA; Vallejo, CA; Denver, CO; Upper Marlboro, MD; Jackson, NJ; Darien, NY; Aurora, OH; Arlington, TX; and San Antonio, TX. Also new to the program is the Los Angeles Zoo. The zoo is located in the heart of the nation's second-largest city. Each year 1.3 million visitors pass through the gates to view a collection of 1200 animals from around the world. Some of the animals you may see on your visit include a Chinese alligator, a ploughshare tortoise, a California kingsnake, an

Andean condor, a roadrunner, a gelada baboon, a ring-tailed lemur, and a polar bear. Although the animals are the main attraction at the zoo, the varied and unique plant collection is getting more notice. There are between 350 and 400 species of plants currently exhibited at the Los Angeles Zoo.

These fine parks join the impressive list of theme parks and zoos already participating in the discount program: Universal Studios®, Sea World®, Busch Gardens®, Knotts Berry Farm®, HersheyPark®, Sesame Place®, Water Country USA®, Adventure Island®, and the San Diego Zoo®. To receive your coupons, visit www.americanboating.org or call ABA at 508-432-8846. ☺

ABA Hotel Discount Program a Proven Winner!

Do your travel plans this summer require a hotel reservation? Don't forget to take advantage of the *ABA Hotel Discount Program* and save money. An ABA member informed us that she received a better rate when making a reservation at a Comfort Inn in Virginia using her ABA discount code versus another discount program she tried! She was quoted a room rate with a 20%

discount using her ABA discount code (00058336) and was quoted a room rate with only a 10% discount using another discount program code. She saved an extra 10% by using her ABA discount code! For a listing of participating hotels, see the ABA Member Benefits box on page 1 or visit www.americanboating.org. ☺

Personal Safety Products Added to ABA Travel Health and Security Program

ABA members can receive a 10% discount on personal safety products available from Citizens Against Crime®. Some of their products are highlighted in the pamphlet *Personal Security While Traveling in the U.S.* (10 pages). *Personal Security* ... may be purchased online at www.americanboating.org for \$3.95 or through the mail for \$5.95 by calling ABA at

508-432-8846. For a listing of the safety products online, visit www.americanboating.org and click on the *ABA Travel Health and Security Program* or call Citizens Against Crime at 800-466-1010. To receive your discount, you must order through the toll-free number listed above and identify yourself as an ABA member. ☺

Travel Products Now Available Through ABA Website

ABA members have access to *Magellan's*®, one of the premier travel product companies, through ABA onlinesm www.americanboating.org. ABA is pleased to offer our members the convenience of buying your travel products on-line. Product categories that are available include luggage,

clothing, day bags, camera gear, rain gear, and sun protection products. Plus, every time you make a purchase through the ABA website, a percentage will be contributed to ABA to help support its mission to promote boating growth, safety, a clean environment and affordability. ☺

14 Ways To Save The Water World

The Clean Water Act of 1972 has been a great success where discharge points (pipes) can be regulated, but less so with all other pollution sources, including boaters. We can increase our contribution to water purity and thereby improving the quality of our fish stock by following a few simple suggestions.

1. Repackage food and supplies into reusable containers on shore to reduce the amount of trash produced on the water.
2. Enforce strict trash discipline on your boat by disposing of all materials properly when you return to shore.
3. Encourage your marina to recycle and to maintain waste areas so trash will not wash or blow back into the water.
4. Don't dump fish waste in restricted waters or near your marina.
5. Freeze fish waste for later use as bait or chum, or use it as rich compost for your home landscaping.
6. Limit what goes down the drain, especially chemicals, minimize dumping even in legal areas, and use portable toilets and appropriate pumpout facilities.
7. Eliminate sewage discharge by installing a holding tank and increasing your use of onshore facilities.
8. Ask your marina about the quality of pumpout facilities and the disposal of sewage waste.
9. Control/collect pet waste (at home and on the water) for proper disposal.
10. Safeguard against accidental release of toxic fuels and lubricants during fueling,

maintenance, and pumping bilges. Install a fuel/air separator in the air vent line to prevent spills during fueling, and have oil-absorbent pads ready to mop up even the smallest spills.

11. Store fuel and lubricants only in approved marine containers.
12. Many boat cleaners contain chlorine, ammonia, phosphates and other chemicals that can affect water quality and aquatic life. Look for cleaners that are less noxious, be careful to avoid release of wash water, and perform major cleaning operations in an area where wash-water can be collected and treated before release.
13. Paints and shellacs used to maintain boats contain many harmful chemicals and metals. Do all chipping and painting in an appropriate area away from the water, use a drop cloth to catch dust chips and spills, and vacuum up loose paint chips and paint dust.
14. Do your engine maintenance in a pollution-safe area, collecting and disposing of maintenance products in an appropriate manner.

Free information on boating and the environment is available from the Coast Guard, the EPA, NOAA, state and local governments, as well as many private companies and organizations, including the ABA. For information about how to access these free resources, check out the ABA web page on clean boating at www.americanboating.org, and share this information with your boating friends. ☺

Boat Shows

July 14-16 & 21-23, 2000

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

July 18-23, 2000

Houston Summer Boat Show, TX
(713) 526-6361 www.houstonboatshow.com

July 21-23, 2000

Clinton Harbor Boat Show, CT
(860) 529-2123 www.northeastpromo.com

July 26-30, 2000

American Boating Jubilee, CA
(714) 633-7581 www.scoma.com

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What boat^{or} boating gear do **YOU** want?

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Cruising The Great Lakes - continued from page 1

it's easy to reach Chicago landmarks like the Magnificent Mile and the Art Institute of Chicago. The booming Navy Pier area is another convenient base or stop. To the north, Belmont Harbor, 312-742-7673, is the place to berth if you want to take in a Cubs game at Wrigley Field, less than 15 minutes away by foot. Another option is a cruise along the Chicago River, where great views of architectural gems and several small marinas await.

Heading counterclockwise around Lake Michigan, the Windy City slowly fades into the lake and small town lake life awaits. For a unique stop, be sure to check out Hammond's bustling marina, 219-659-7678, and the gaming vessel, *Empress III* (several other communities along this stretch offer marinas with gambling vessels docked there).

Near the southernmost point of Lake Michigan, Michigan City, Indiana, (four marinas) marks the transition point from the big cities to the southeastern shoreline and rural, sandy Michigan. Some popular stopovers along this stretch include: New Buffalo; St. Joseph/Benton Harbor; South Haven; Saugatuck (often called the 'Cape Cod of the Midwest'); Holland/Lake Macatawa; and Port Sheldon. Twenty-five marinas serve these towns. Specific marina information on these or any others mentioned in the article may be found in Lakeland Boating's *Ports O' Call* cruising guides. See below for ordering information.

The eastern edge of the lake means more small towns, marinas, and active, friendly boating scenes. Some highlights include Grand Haven (named for its location at the mouth of the Grand - Michigan's largest river); Muskegon/Muskegon Lake; White Lake (with great nearby wilderness areas); Pentwater; Ludington (home of the hulking S.S. Badger, a famed car-ferry); Victorian Manistee; Onkama/Portage Lake; Arcadia and sister city Frankfort; and Leland. Finding a marina in these towns should not be a challenge as there are 53 serving this area of the lake.

In the north, Lake Michigan becomes even quieter. Some favorite destinations include the small towns of Grand Traverse Bay; Charlevoix; Little Traverse Bay's Petoskey; Harbor Springs; Mackinaw City/Mackinac Island; and Michigan's 'Upper Peninsula' options like St. Ignace. Numerous marinas serve this northern section so check the *Ports O' Call* guides for those that best suit your needs.

Over on the northeast coast of Lake Michigan, Wisconsin, awaits with more small town port charm. The options here include: Green Bay (worth a visit and cruise of several days); Fish Creek; Sister Bay; the Door County area of European-style harbors; Manitowoc; and Sheboygan and its famed boardwalk. Again, there are several marinas that serve this area of the lake.

Finally, a lake tour ends as it begins—with a big city. Like Chicago, Milwaukee is very friendly to boaters. McKinley Marina, 414-273-5224, is the best in-city base for boaters, with nearby pleasures including the bustling Milwaukee River Riverfront development, the Milwaukee Maritime Center, great food, and more. From here, it's just a short cruise to the Illinois state line and back to Chicago.

Of course, you don't have to circumnavigate Lake Michigan to enjoy its boating pleasures. Many consider 'crossing' the lake as a rite of passage for Great Lakes boaters. This experience can range from a short shot of 59 miles from Algoma to Frankfort or a long angle crossing from Chicago to Holland. Either way, weather (and right-angle traffic) can play a role.

For those considering a Lake Michigan cruise of any length, the recreational boating season is rather short—generally four months or so in a mild year. Basically, boats begin hitting the water in mid- to late-May and need to be pulled out in the first weeks of September.

Along with charts (see below), the best way to stay safe and happy while boating on the Great Lakes is with Lakeland Boating's *Ports O' Call* cruising guides. They remain the most comprehensive full-color resources on the market. The *Ports O' Call* series includes Lake Michigan, Lake Huron, Lake Erie, Lake Ontario, and Lake Superior. ABA members get a 10% discount off the \$44.95 price. Call 800-892-9342 and mention your ABA membership. Marine Navigation, 708-352-0606, in La Grange, Illinois, offers a huge selection of up-to-date charts, as well as information, advice, and charts for practically everywhere else in the world. A great resource for Great Lakes Cruising is *Lakeland Boating Magazine*. Regularly \$21.95, ABA members can get it for only \$11.00. Call 800-827-0289 to order and use discount code #ZABA.

Upcoming Issues: Lake Huron; Gulf of Mexico

Attention ABA Members!

Get your yearly subscription to *Lakeland Boating* for only \$11.00. That's almost a 50% savings (normally \$21.95)! Call 800-827-0289 and press 0 for a representative. Be sure to use source code ZABA. Save 10% off the *Ports O' Call* guides (normally \$44.95, you pay \$40.45 per guide plus shipping and handling.) Call 800-892-9342 and use source code ZABA.

Boat Shows - continued from page 3

August 4-6, 2000

Jacksonville Fall Boat Show, FL

(904) 724-3003

Hot Summer Boat Show, FL

(407) 872-7799 www.boatshowflorida.com

August 16-20, 2000

Seattle Boats Afloat Show, WA

(206) 634-0911, www.seattleboatshow.com

August 17-20, 2000

Racine In-Water Boat Show, WI

(312) 946-6200 www.boatshows.com

August 24-27, 2000

Michigan City In-Water Boat Show, IN

(440) 899-5009 www.lemta.com