

# The ABA Beacon<sup>®</sup>

Publication for American Boating Association Associate Members

Volume 122

May 2002

## MEMBER BENEFITS

- **The ABA Beacon<sup>®</sup>**
- **ABA Online<sup>®</sup>:**  
americanboating.org
- **ABA Boat Insurance:**  
americanboating.org  
877-229-7775
- **Safe & Clean Boating Information:**  
americanboating.org
- **Cruising Destination Information:**  
americanboating.org
- **ABA Marina Discounts:**  
americanboating.org
- **ABA Visa<sup>®</sup> Credit Card:** 800-FIRSTUSA
- **BoatersWorld.com Product Promotions:**  
americanboating.org
- **ABA Custom Boating Apparel:**  
800-480-2053
- **ABA Magazine Discount Program:**  
800-289-6247
- **Lakeland Boating Magazine Discount:**  
800-827-0289,  
ID#ZABA
- **Great Lakes Ports O' Call Cruising Guides Discount:**  
800-892-9342,  
ID#ZABA
- **Cruising Guide To The New York State Canal System Discount:**  
802-860-2886,  
ID#ABA
- **Waterway Guides Discount:**  
800-233-3359,  
ID#UWGABA

Continued on page 4

## Cruising South Carolina

by Mike Anderson, Full-time Cruiser and ABA Member

South Carolina is an area of transition for the coastal cruiser. The landscape changes from inland passages and pine forests to marsh grass and winding waterways. Dolphins and herons are frequent companions and nature's beauty abounds. Tides in this area can reach almost nine feet and the many openings to the sea cause strong currents as the tides ebb and flow. It has many well-marked ocean access points to facilitate outside coastal passages.

From the north, you enter South Carolina on the Intracoastal Waterway (ICW) at the Little River Inlet above Myrtle Beach, where you will find many fine marinas located in the stretch from the Little River Inlet to the Little River Swing Bridge at Nixon's Crossroad. A good place to stop, the marinas are economical and offer access to provisioning and entertainment.

The Little River Swing Bridge is a landmark for the northern boundary of the infamous "Rock Pile," a narrow stretch running from ICW mile markers 350.1 to 353.1. Its name tells it all. Lined with rock ledges on both sides, it can be very dangerous. Tug captains call on VHF channel 16 or 13 to warn traffic coming from the opposite direction. This is not an area where you want to confront a tug pushing a barge. Many vessels make their

own securité call to announce their passage. Day beacons mark many of the rock ledges that protrude into the channel, but not all of them. Stay to the channel center and be careful with on-coming traffic. We had the uncomfortable experience of making this passage late in the day with the sun in our eyes and reflecting off of the water. It made the day beacons difficult to pick up and reading the water all but impossible. Upon arrival at Barefoot Landing, a gentleman told us of friends who lost their vessel the day before when they yielded the channel to a passing vessel only to be grounded on the rocks in a falling tide. The vessel rolled, took on water and sank before they could get help. This is just a word of warning and not to scare you off. Stay in the channel and use good judgment. Low tide is a good time to pass, as many of the ledges are visible.

South of the Rock Pile you come to Barefoot Landing, a large outlet mall and restaurant

Continued on page 3



*S.V. Moonraker under lighthouse at Hilton Head Island, S.C.*

## Save Money With the New ABA Boat Insurance Program

You can now receive a free, instant online quote for your boat insurance through the ABA Boat Insurance Program at [www.americanboating.org](http://www.americanboating.org) or you can call toll free 877-229-7775. The ABA Boat Insurance Program offers very competitive rates and coverage for many types of boats on a nationwide basis.

ABA's Boat Insurance Program is provided through a partnership with National Marine Underwriters, Inc. who has been providing marine insurance for almost 20 years. They are a leading underwriter of recreational boats/yachts, personal watercraft, and six-passenger charter boats. Marine insurance is all they offer. Focusing on one class of insurance allows them to concentrate their efforts and provide a comprehensive all risk policy with competitive terms. Policies are issued by Hanover Insurance Company who is rated "A" by A.M. Best Company, which is based upon Hanover's financial stability and its ability to pay its claims.

Get your quote today at [www.americanboating.org](http://www.americanboating.org) or call toll free 877-229-7775. Be sure to identify yourself as an ABA member! ■

# CHANGING YOUR BOAT'S OIL

by **Tim Harrington, Madison Marine and Boat Maintenance Specialist**

Your boat is an investment and the investment you make upon purchase comes with costs to keep your boat running. As a boat repair specialist, I see many repetitious problems that if left unattended, turn into major repair bills.

The biggest key to containing those costs is a good maintenance program. As the boat owner, you are completely in charge of this. As you know, water is a very harsh environment. Salt water can be especially hard on your boat, but don't be fooled into thinking that fresh water can do no harm. Your maintenance program should be the same whether you boat in fresh water, salt water or a combination of both. Water damage is water damage. By keeping up with maintenance that you are capable of doing yourself, you will see at least two benefits over the course of a few years. Breakdowns will be kept to a minimum (remember, your boat seldom breaks down at a dock), and your maintenance costs will be reduced.

Changing your oil may be one of the most significant things you can do to increase the life of your engine. Maintenance schedules should be based on use and manufacturer recommendations. This is usually done by hours or break-in time if your boat is new. If you are the owner of a new boat, keep to your warranty times to protect your new purchase. For older boats, there are manuals for just about everything that will act as a guide for the owner. Another source of information is the "tech-pub" (technical publication) for the maintenance you intend to perform yourself. To maintain your equipment, stay ahead of your pre-scheduled maintenance.

Most oil change procedures are quite easy and will help with the longevity of your boat. Most gas inboards or I/Os will take anywhere from 4 to 7 quarts of oil. Check for your engine's capacity in the owner's manual. Besides the oil, make sure that you have the correct oil filter for your engine before beginning.

To begin, start your engine and let it warm up for 5 minutes. Shut your engine down and remove the keys from the ignition. This thins the oil to make it easier to siphon. To remove the oil, you need to use a siphon. There are different kinds, ranging in price from \$25 (for manual) to over \$200 (for electric). These can be found at [www.americanboating.org/framedpages/products.htm](http://www.americanboating.org/framedpages/products.htm). I use a hand siphon for most boats up to 35 feet. If you use an electric pump and it operates in both pump and siphon modes, check the mode prior to siphoning!

Next place CLEAN rags or diapers in the bilge beneath the engine. These will absorb any moisture in the bilge, and catch any oil that may make its way to the bilge. The next step is to siphon the oil out. This is usually done by running the provided tube down your dipstick access. Take your oil and place it where you won't knock it over.

Now remove the oil filter. You may have some oil overflow. The rags should help catch the oil. Have a small plastic container that is larger than the oil filter on hand. It can catch the overflow and you can put the filter in it. To put on the new filter, put a little oil on the gasket side of your filter with your finger. Once done, spin the filter back on, being careful not to cross thread the filter. TIGHTEN by hand until snug making sure contact is tight. It is a good idea to date the filter for future reference.

Next, put in your new oil. Be careful with how much oil you add! If the engine I am servicing takes 7 quarts of oil, at this time I would put in 6.5 quarts. The oil filler cap will likely show the type of oil that you should use.

Start your engine and cycle the lubricant through the system, watching your temperature and oil pressure. If there is a problem, shut the engine down and make sure everything is tight and nothing is leaking. If there are no problems, shut the engine down and wait 5-10 minutes and check the dipstick for the oil level. Adjust the quantity to maintain the full line. Do not overflow.

The job is almost done. Pick up the rags that were put in the bilge. Try to clean the bilge at the same time that you are picking up. This will allow you to do a visual check for potential problems before you leave the dock. It is always easier to fix something before it becomes a problem! Checking the belts for corrosion while you are there is a good idea.

To read an expanded version of this article or if you have other maintenance or repair questions, visit the "Ask Tim" section of [www.americanboating.org](http://www.americanboating.org). ■

## New Marinas Added to Discount Program

ABA members can enjoy numerous savings at marinas nationwide through American Boating Association's *Marina Alliance Program (MAP)*! New marinas have recently joined and more keep joining this growing program. A list of participating marinas can be viewed at [www.americanboating.org](http://www.americanboating.org).

Discounts vary by marina and may include discounts on the following goods/services: transient dockage, fuel dock, service & repair shop, marina store, towing service, pump out service and restaurant.

In addition to listing the discounts offered to ABA members, the website also gives other pertinent marina information which includes address, phone number, manager's name, e-mail address, website for the marina (with a direct link), GPS coordinates, types of docks, hookup availability, and services offered.

ABA is actively working to expand the marinas participating in its *MAP*, so be sure to check out *ABA Online*® often for an up-to-date list. If your favorite marina is not listed, send ABA (via e-mail at [admin@americanboating.org](mailto:admin@americanboating.org)) their name, address, phone number, contact name and we will contact them concerning the *Marina Alliance Program*. ■

## ABA Theme Park and Zoo Discount Program Saves You Money

As an Associate Member of ABA, you can take advantage of discounts ABA has negotiated for its members at major amusement parks and zoos across the country. Discounts are available at some of the most visited parks and zoos in the country including Sea World®, Busch Gardens®, Universal Studios®, Six Flags®, Paramount Parks®, Dollywood®, Hershey Park®, Sesame Place®, Water Country USA®, Adventure Island®, Hurricane Harbor®, the San Diego Zoo®, and the Los Angeles Zoo®. Please visit [www.americanboating.org](http://www.americanboating.org) for a comprehensive listing of the participating parks and to order your free discount coupons. ■

# 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](http://www.americanboating.org).

### May 11 - 12, 2002

Downtown Hampton Boat Show, VA  
(757) 727-1276

### May 16 - 19, 2002

Seattle Fleet of Dreams, WA  
(206) 748-0012

Boat Show USA, MI  
(313) 884-1776

Delta Fest at Tower Park, CA  
(starts May 17)

(800) 778-6937

St. Petersburg Spring Boat Sale, FL (starts May 17)

(800) 940-7642

Anacortes Waterfront Festival, WA (starts May 18)

(360) 293-7911

### May 30 - June 2, 2002

Emerald Coast Boat Show, FL  
(954) 764-7642

Dana Point Harbor In-Water Boat Show, CA

(323) 655-2010

Newport Used Boat Show, RI (starts May 31)

(401) 846-1115

### June 4 - 7, 2002

NYS Spring Charter Yacht Trade Show, RI  
(401) 846-7720

### June 6 - 9, 2002

Spring Boat Show, CA  
(714) 633-7581

### June 14 - 16, 2002

Riveredge Resort In-Water Boat Show, NY

(315) 482-9917

South Florida Boat Show, FL  
(954) 946-6164

La Conner Yacht Sales Boat Show & Swap Meet, WA (starts June 15)

(800) 232-8879

Old Saybrook Boat Show, CT (starts June 15)

(860) 395-0867

### June 27 - 30, 2002

Marina del Rey In-Water Boat Show, CA

(310) 645-5151

## *Cruising South Carolina - continued from page 1*

complex that offers 500' of floating dock on the ICW free to boaters. There is no electric or water, but it is very popular and it's common to see boats rafted three deep. It's a good stopping point, but the free docks can "cost" you! There are many stores and the restaurants tend to be expensive, but if you feel like treating yourself, you can't beat Barefoot Landing.

Heading south, the ICW passes from the Little River to the Waccamaw River. The Waccamaw River stretch may be one of the most scenic of the entire ICW. It meanders through woods and fields as it widens in its journey south to Georgetown. The current here can be a big factor if you play it right. Heading south, try to get to Enterprise Landing after high tide and ride a favorable current all the way to Georgetown. Reverse the process heading north.

As you approach Georgetown, the third oldest city in South Carolina, the landscape changes from inland waterways to coastal plain. Large areas of open marsh grass and coastal wetlands dominate the scenery. The large steel and paper mills are a testimony to Georgetown's conversion from rice and indigo plantations to industry. An active fishing and shrimp fleet are evident at the harbor docks. The historic district has been revitalized and this enjoyable waterfront town has good restaurants and fresh seafood.

Just below Georgetown, the Winyah Bay entrance offers good access for an ocean run to Charleston. It is straightforward and well marked. Charleston is another story. It's a very busy entrance and I caution against any entry other than at broad daylight. One of our favorite

*Continued on page 4*

## ATTENTION ABA MEMBERS!

*The Southern Waterway Guide* is an excellent resource for extensive information on cruising South Carolina. Marina listings, charts, restaurants, and things to do are all listed in this comprehensive guide. It is available to ABA members for only \$35.96. That's a 10% savings! To receive this discount, phone your order to **800-633-1954**, use promo code UWGABA, or fax to **800-633-6219**. When faxing, include the name of the guide, your name, street address, phone number and credit card number with expiration date. Also include the promo code of UWGABA to receive the discount. Please allow 2 weeks for delivery.

## ABA Boat Insurance Program

*Free, Instant Online Quotes!*

*Low rates*

*Coverage available nationwide*

[www.americanboating.org](http://www.americanboating.org)

or call 877-229-7775

*(If you call, be sure to identify yourself as an ABA member!)*

*Insurance underwritten by National Marine Underwriters, Inc. and policies issued by Hanover Insurance Company*

## ***Cruising South Carolina - continued from page 3***

anchorage here is Price Creek above Charleston. It is surrounded by marsh grass and filled with a variety of birds. At low tide the high grass will block your view and make for a walled in feeling. The high tide will raise you above the grass and provide sweeping views of the surrounding area.

Charleston is a great touring destination and has good bus service that makes wandering this historic city a breeze. There are many interesting things to see and do, including the Fort Sumter National Monument where the first shots of the Civil War were fired. The people are friendly and helpful and will cheerfully point you in the right direction. The cobble stone streets, antebellum houses and Spanish moss draped trees bring you the feeling of the old south. Visit the historic district and enjoy a walking tour or one by horse drawn carriage to learn the history and traditions of this charming city. There are several good marinas in the area. The only anchorage in Charleston is across the Ashley River from the City Marina and the Coast Guard Station. There are also moorings adjacent to the anchorage.

Continuing south, you pass Beaufort and Hilton Head Island. Beaufort offers a fuel dock right on the ICW, a marina and a good, but often crowded anchorage. The town is quaint with shops and restaurants that border a park and walkway along the river. Hilton Head is a great place to stop and the Harbortown Marina is a wonderful place to relax and unwind. They offer dockage in a resort setting with shops and restaurants, trails for walking and biking the island and even deliver the newspaper to your boat in the morning.

South Carolina is a terrific place to slow down and enjoy the southern hospitality and traditions that are so plentiful, and it welcomes the boating community with open arms. Enjoy!

To read an expanded version of this article including which marinas in South Carolina offer discounts to ABA members, visit the Cruising Destinations section of ABA Online® - [www.americanboating.org](http://www.americanboating.org). ■

## **BOATER'S QUIZ**

### **What Went Wrong?**

If some of the answers to this multiple-choice quiz seem obvious, that's because you already know the reasoning behind them. For any that leave you wondering why, the answers are explained, often in entertaining detail, under the Boating Safety section of our web site at [www.americanboating.org](http://www.americanboating.org).

1. The leading operational factor in accidents is:
  - a. Excessive speed
  - b. Operator inattention
  - c. Passenger/skier behavior
2. Unfamiliar waters account for what % of accidents?
  - a. 5%
  - b. 8%
  - c. <1%
3. The #1 environmental factor in accidents is:
  - a. Hazardous waters
  - b. Weather
  - c. Heavy traffic
4. What's the leading event in a fatal boating sequence?
  - a. Swamping
  - b. Capsizing
  - c. Falling overboard
5. What's the safest boat by type?
  - a. Open motorboat
  - b. Houseboat
  - c. Sail only
6. Alcohol is involved in about what % of accidents?
  - a. 10%
  - b. One third
  - c. Two out of three
7. What % of boating fatalities are by drowning?
  - a. Almost all
  - b. Three out of four
  - c. Less than half
8. What % of injuries involve personal watercraft?
  - a. < one-third
  - b. >5%
  - c. 12%
9. The most reported accident is:
  - a. Grounding
  - b. Capsizing
  - c. Collision with another vessel
10. Operators with no safety training account for what % of boating accidents?
  - a. 25%
  - b. 52%
  - c. 84%

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

## **MEMBER BENEFITS**

- **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 Econo Lodge** 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 and Zoo Discounts:** [americanboating.org](http://americanboating.org)
  - **Royal Caribbean and Celebrity Cruise Line** Discounts:  
888-226-2100, ID#ABA
  - **ABA Movie Discount Program:** 415-430-1269, ext. 2800
  - **Passport Health:** 888-499-PASS (7277), ID#ABA
  - **ABA Travel Safety and Health Program:** [americanboating.org](http://americanboating.org)
- All benefits can be accessed at [americanboating.org](http://americanboating.org)**
- American Boating Association  
PO Box 417  
Harwich Port, MA 02646  
508-432-8846  
508-430-2049 (fax)  
[admin@americanboating.org](mailto:admin@americanboating.org)*