

The ABA Beacon®

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Cruise on over to www.americanboating.org and soak up your **5% member discount** on nifty items from *BoatersWorld.com* for your first mate and crew (and maybe something for yourself, captain). Then, how about a deal on **boat insurance**? Make sure you have the best rates available for the upcoming season. See page 2 for details. Still looking for more savings? A complete list of valuable ABA member discounts can be found in the Member Benefits section of www.americanboating.org.

What Do I Do With My Old Fire Extinguishers?

by Wayne Spivak, U.S.C.G. Auxiliary

It invariably happens. In fact it's almost commonplace. One would be amazed at how much this has become such a common occurrence.

It happens every time I teach a safe boating course. It happened just the other day, by e-mail. It is that e-mail that has prompted this article.

What happens? I'm asked, "What do I do with my old fire extinguishers?"

Fire extinguishers manufactured in the past decade come in three varieties, water filled, gas filled and chemical filled extinguishers. With the exception of chemical filled extinguishers, both water filled and gas (CO2) filled extinguishers are inert, and are not harmful. The dry chemical variety can cause irritation, so extra care should be taken with these units.

Older fire extinguishers may have been charged with chemicals such as carbon tetrachloride or halon. If in doubt, contact your local fire department or fire extinguisher service companies (found conveniently in the yellow pages).

The common denominator in the three different types of fire extinguishers mentioned is the fact that each container is under pressure. Without pressure, when you squeezed the activating trigger, nothing would happen. This is why, on most units today, there is a pressure gauge.

Many of today's units are also rechargeable. This means that for a small amount of money, usually a fraction of the cost of a new unit, you can have your fire extinguisher emptied, checked and re-filled.

But let's get back to the inevitable question. You don't want the old fire extinguisher. What do you do with it?

First and foremost, contact your local fire department, sanitation department or environmental protection department and find out what your local laws stipulate. Some locals consider fire extinguishers as hazard waste. Others won't permit you to put fully charged extinguishers in with the regular garbage.

However, you may be able to dispose of discharged extinguishers. If you are permitted, here's the chance to practice what we hope you will never have to do, use the fire extinguisher.

Remember, when you use a fire extinguisher, you point at the bottom of the fire, and spray with a left to right (or right to left) motion using short bursts from the fire

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Just in time for spring commissioning - members of the American Boating Association enjoy a 5% discount on products from BoatersWorld.com! Go to www.americanboating.org/products.asp, log into the Members Only section, and access your 5% discount on scores of great products from BoatersWorld.com. From clothing to canoes, binoculars to boat covers, it's all there, waiting for your order... and your discount.

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There are no coupons, no codes, and no hassles. Just go to www.americanboating.org/products.asp, log into the Members Only section, and start saving. It's that easy! The 5% discount will ONLY be applied if you access BoatersWorld.com through ABA Online®. ■

MARYLAND'S DEEP CREEK LAKE

by Lynn Seldon, Boating Writer and ABA Member

Located in the mountains of western Maryland and bordered by West Virginia and Pennsylvania, Deep Creek Lake is just 175 miles from Washington, D.C. - but a world away. The lake serves as the heart of historic Garrett County, which has become quite a popular tourist (and boater) destination.

At 3,900 acres and about 13 miles in length, Deep Creek Lake is Maryland's largest freshwater lake. It was created in 1925 with the opening of the Youghiogheny Hydro-Electric Corporation to generate electric power. The lake features 65 miles of shoreline and has a maximum depth of 75 feet (averaging about 25 feet). It's owned by the state of Maryland and is maintained by the state's Department of Natural Resources.

The quaint town of McHenry on the northern end of Deep Creek Lake serves as its major hub. In addition, Wisp Resort (www.wispresort.com) has turned into a four-season activities haven. U.S. Route 219 bisects the lake and several additional roads provide easy access to the lake and all of Garrett County's offerings.

Deep Creek Lake is quite boater-friendly. In fact, an excellent brochure, *Travel By Boat*, provides a nice overview of more than 30 businesses that welcome boaters (from restaurants to house rentals right on the lake). With names like "Chateau on the Lake," many visiting boaters choose to rent a home right on the water - or to stay at one of many varied resorts or B&Bs.

Basic boating rules and courtesies apply on Deep Creek Lake, with rules of interest including: a maximum length for pontoons of 30 feet and 26 feet for all other craft (not including ski decks); two people in the boat for waterskiing (operator and observer at least 12 years old); and no wake zones 100 feet from shore and in buoyed areas. Those with personal watercraft should note that they aren't allowed between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. on the Saturday, Sunday, and Monday of Memorial Day weekend and on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays from July 1 through Labor Day (also 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.).

There are several full-service marinas on the lake: Deep Creek Marina (www.deepcreekmarina.com); Patterson Boat Company (301-387-5000); Bill's Marine Service (www.billsmarineservice.com); and Silver Tree Marine (www.silvertreemarine.com). Of course, supplies, service, and boat rentals are all available. Personal watercraft, kayaks, and canoes can also be rented at several other lake businesses. There's also a public boat launch at popular Deep Creek Lake State Park (301-387-5563), which is located south of Meadow Mountain.

Once there, the possibilities include swimming, excellent fishing (especially trout, perch, and walleye), waterskiing, wakeboarding, scuba diving (bring your own gear), and much more. There's also world-class whitewater rafting, kayaking, and canoeing nearby (including the Youghiogheny, the Savage, the Potomac, and the new Adventure Sports Center International).

One of the great things about Deep Creek Lake is that boaters can dock at many locations and easily reach places on foot. For instance, boaters in the know dock right at Lakeside Creamery (www.lakesidecreamery.com) for homemade ice cream and head next door to Sacred Ground (www.sacredground.com) for southwestern jewelry, pottery, and more - all at half-price! Boaters who love the outdoors (and don't all boaters?) will also want to dock at High Mountain Sports (www.highmountainsports.com) for a great selection of outdoor gear and clothing.

Off the water, Garrett County abounds in history, culture, and activities.



Boaters enjoy many services on Deep Creek Lake.

Photo courtesy of Garrett County Chamber of Commerce

Save Money With the ABA Boat Insurance Program

Need a better deal on your boat insurance? The ABA Boat Insurance Program, designed exclusively for ABA members, can help! ABA has partnered with a nationwide boat insurance agency, to offer insurance for virtually any type of pleasure craft. Key features of the program are:

- Your business is placed with "A" or better rated companies;
- Very competitive rates and broad coverage;
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Request a free, no-obligation quote at www.americanboating.org, or you can call toll-free 800-477-7140. ■

Only ABA Members Rate Financing This Good

Who but the American Boating Association would bring you extraordinarily competitive finance rates on your next boat? With rates as low as 6.75%, ABA puts you and your dream boat right out there on the water far more quickly than you'd think possible.

The ABA Boat Financing Program has partnered with a nationwide boat finance company, and is pleased to offer financing for a full range of water vessels. With loans for boats ranging from \$10,000 to over \$2,500,000 in value, competitive rates and terms up to 20 years, we surely have the loan that's right for you.

You'll be working with people who have a detailed understanding of both boats and the boat financing market - a decided advantage over the average banker.

Financing with ABA is a fast and simple process, too. Just visit www.americanboating.org/financehome.asp to get an online quote, or call toll free 877-222-0244 to speak personally with a financing specialist. You can have a credit answer by tomorrow, with a one-to-two-business day turnaround on the loan.

Let ABA assist you with your financing needs for 2007. (Did we mention that we also have financing available for RVs?) It's all about savings! ■

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PRODUCT INFORMATION

SIRIUS Satellite Radio



Boaters seriously into staying in touch (or simply listening to Jimmy Buffet) know that SIRIUS Satellite Radio (www.siriusradio.com) is a great way to go. In addition to more than 130 sports, talk, family, weather/traffic, religious, comedy, and commercial-free music channels (including Jimmy Buffet's own radio channel, Radio Margaritaville!), there's also SIRIUS Satellite Weather - currently offered on the new RayMarine E-80 Seataalk. Clarion carries several boat-specific models for serious SIRIUS users, but many other manufacturers also make great options.

Smart ABA members shop 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 BoatersWorld.com 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! ■

ON THE HORIZON

Boat Shows & Parades

Representative boat shows and parades 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/parade listing and to link to boat show websites, please visit www.americanboating.org/boatshows.asp.

March 8-11

- Mobile Boat Show, AL
- Lansing Boat & Fishing Show, MI
- Ft. Myers Spring Boat Show, FL

March 9-11

- Massachusetts Boat Show, MA
- Augusta Boat Show, ME
- Springfield Boat Show, IL

March 16-18

- Anacortes Spring Floating Boat Show, WA
- Tri-State Recreational Boat Show, NY
- Central Valley Sportsman's Boat Show, CA

March 22-25

- Greater Philadelphia Boat Show, PA
- Palm Beach Boat Show, FL

- Great Upstate Boat Show, NY

March 28-April 1

- Tacoma Dome Boat Show, WA

March 29-April 1

- Syracuse Regional Boat Show, NY

- Birmingham Boat Show, AL

March 30-April 1

- Emerald Coast Boat Show, FL
- Savannah Int'l. Boat Show, GA

Maryland's Deep Creek Lake continued from page 2

The possibilities include: the National Road (one of the nation's first roadways); shopping; hiking; biking; birding; golf; state parks; nature tours; several quaint towns worth exploration (like McHenry, Deer Park, Grantsville, and the county seat of Oakland, including the 1884 Queen Anne-style B&O Railroad Station); plus a variety of dining options on or near the lake (including freshly caught

fish). Deer Park is also home to The Flying Scot Sailboat Company (www.flyingscot.com) and Deer Park Natural Spring Water (www.deerparkwater.com).

Visiting boaters may also enjoy the options at 2,840-acre Youghiogheny River Lake (eight launch areas), 350-acre Savage River Reservoir (three boat launches, with boating limited to kayaks, canoes, and fishing boats), and at 952-acre Jennings Randolph Lake (two boat ramps). These all provide additional exploration options to those trailering their boats to the area.

Special annual and one-time events draw many Deep Creek Lake visitors. The possibilities (check with the county's Chamber of Commerce for

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Another valuable benefit for members of the American Boating Association



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

BOATER QUIZ

Ship-shaping Up

Whether you do your boating in the cooler north or the sunny south, Spring is the perfect time to make sure everything works right. Match the boat part with the most common maintenance issue. (The key word is *most*.) For a helpful commissioning checklist, visit www.americanboating.org.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Rails | 6. Drains |
| a. Bends and cracks | a. Loose and leaky |
| b. Loose or rusted screws | b. Ice cracks |
| c. Missing parts | c. Missing or defective plugs |
| 2. Fiberglass and gel coat | 7. Oil tanks |
| a. Fading | a. Leaks |
| b. Cracking | b. Water, dirt, filters |
| c. Scratches, dents and dings | c. Corrosion |
| 3. Engine | 8. Prop(s) |
| a. Tune up or overhaul | a. Minor dings |
| b. Cracked gaskets | b. Imbalance |
| c. Fuel leaks | c. Worn seals |
| 4. Battery | 9. USCG Safety Package |
| a. Replace | a. Depleted fire extinguisher |
| b. Refill | b. Non-code PFDs |
| c. Clean case, posts, cable ends | c. Out-of-date flares |
| 5. Carburetor | 10. Registration |
| a. Loose springs | a. Paperwork not onboard |
| b. Clogged air intake | b. Incomplete bow numbers |
| c. Gum and varnish | c. Non-current sticker |

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

Old Fire Extinguishers continued from page 1

extinguisher.

A unit under pressure, if crushed, can explode. Once the unit is discharged, there is no potential of an accident should the extinguisher be crushed during the disposal phase.

To learn more about what to do during a boating emergency, why not take a boating safety course! The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary has a variety of boating courses geared for all levels of boating knowledge. You can contact your local Auxiliary Flotilla by either calling your local Coast Guard unit or visiting the Coast Guard on the web at www.uscg.mil/default.asp or the Coast Guard Auxiliary at www.cgaux.org. ■

Maryland's Deep Creek Lake continued from page 3

dates) include: the 47th Annual Garrett County Fishing Contest; Art in the Park; Deep Creek Lake Art and Wine Festival; Garrett Lakes Arts Festival; Little Yough Summer Music Festival; 20th Annual McHenry Highland Festival; Music at Penn Alps; Music on the Mountain; Largness Wakeboard Contest; Amish Quilt shows; the 40th Annual Autumn Glory Festival; and several other fishing tournaments and rodeos. In addition, the lake is a great lake for boaters to enjoy July 4th fireworks!

Contact the Garrett County Chamber of Commerce at 15 Visitors Center Drive, McHenry, MD 21541, or call 301-387-4FUN (4386). There are several great Internet resources for boating and general travel information. These include: www.boatdeepcreeklake.com; www.visitdeepcreek.com; and www.garrettchamber.com. ■

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- **Budget Auto Rental Discounts:**
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#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
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All benefits can be accessed at:
www.americanboating.org



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