

# BOATING TOPICS



I hope you enjoy this book...

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## **Boating Accessories**

When you are looking for boating accessories, you may become overwhelmed at the amount of products that are available. Are you wondering just what kinds of boating accessories you really need? The truth is that answer is really up to you.

To begin with, you need to make sure that your boating accessories include all of the required equipment as outlined by the United States Coast Guard. Those boating accessories include:

- \* Fire extinguishers
- \* Life jackets for each person on board
- \* A sound device like a foghorn, a whistle, or a bell
- \* Adequate lighting for night boating

You will also want to have some type of two-way radio for communication with those on shore in the event that you become stranded. While this is not a mandatory boating accessory, you really won't want to be without this while in the middle of the water.

As far as other accessories for boating, the rest is your decision. How will you be using your boat? If you will be participating in water sports, look into a pair of water skis and a slalom ski as well as a strong tow rope. Inner tubing just requires a reliable tube with handles and that same tow rope.

Some people think that an essential boating accessory is an on-board stereo. If you will be entertaining on your boat, this can be a great addition. You don't have to spend a lot of money on a boat stereo, but you may find that the extra investment is well worth your enjoyment!

Recreational boating accessories can run the gamut from fishing gear to nice sunglasses. If you think you will want to park in one of the proverbial "party coves" that exist on many bodies of water, you will want to have an anchor lest you drift away from the party!

If you will be traveling on large bodies of water, a boating accessory you may really need is a navigation system. Today, many GPS systems can be found relatively inexpensively and they can save your life should you become lost or mixed up while on the water.

If your boat has separate below-deck living quarters, you will want to outfit that with some cool boating accessories. Well, they're not necessarily boating accessories specifically. What we're talking about here is a coffee pot, a microwave, and maybe even a television with a DVD player. If you will be bringing your kids along, these devices could be life savers!

Boating accessories can be found in many places. Your best deals will be found online. Shop around and outfit your boat so it reflects you and how you want to use your boat. Then enjoy!

## **Boating Accidents**

Every year, the United States Coast Guard compiles information regarding boating accidents in the United States. These studies are very comprehensive and are based on accident reports filed by boaters who have been involved in boating accidents.

There are certain regulations that the USCG has set forth regarding the reporting of a boating accident. You must report the accident under the following conditions:

- \* A person dies
- \* A person is injured and requires medical treatment other than first aid
- \* The damage to a vessel is more than \$2,000 or there is a total loss of a vessel
- \* A person disappears from a vessel and circumstances indicated there may be a death or an injury

It's a good idea to report the boating accident within the first forty-eight hours. Regulations differ as to the required time frame, but a responsible boater will take care of the situation as soon as possible.

In the year 2005, there were 267 fatalities directly attributed to boating accidents. Of those fatalities, seventy percent of them were due to drowning, and eight-seven of those who drowned did so because they were not wearing their life jackets.

The most reported boating accidents were the result of collisions with another vessel. However, capsizing and falls overboard were also among those most reported and contributed also to the drowning fatalities overall.

Overall, carelessness, reckless driving, operator inattention, excessive speed, and operator inexperience were the most prevalent contributing factors to boating accidents. That is why the Coast Guard highly recommends all boaters take a certified boating safety class as well as qualified boating instruction classes.

The most common types of boats involved in boating accidents were open watercraft, personal water crafts (Jet Skis), and cabin motorboats. There was a marked increase also in sailing accidents, houseboats, and fishing boats.

Alcohol was also shown to be a huge contributing factor in boating accidents. Impaired captains were shown to have a larger incidence of the possibility of accidents because of lack of judgment, inattention, and reckless behavior. In fact, one-fourth of all boating accidents could be directly linked to the consumption of alcohol by the driver.

Boating accidents can be prevented rather easily if more people would take boating safety classes and receive proper boating instruction. Because of the various factors that are involved in boating, it can be dangerous if you don't know what you are doing. If you want to be a responsible boater, the way to prevent boating accidents is to stop them before they start. Get educated and then put that information to use all the time!

## Boating Charter

If you don't own a boat, but are yearning to experience a boating vacation, a boating charter is the way for you to go. You can charter a boat either with or without a captain depending on your experience level and what type of getaway you want.

A bareboat boating charter is when you simply rent a boat and will captain it yourself. Most places who specialize in bareboat charters will give you a quick boating course so you know how to operate the vehicle and know the rules of the road when it comes to navigating the waterways. As a general rule, it's not a good idea to get a bareboat charter with no boating experience at all.

The advantage to a bareboat boating charter is that if you do have some boating experience, you will be able to captain a boat that you wouldn't otherwise be able to afford to own. That means a cabin cruiser or even a yacht. If you've always wanted to go yachting, a bareboat boating charter may very well be the way for you to go.

When you do a basic boating charter, you are hiring the boat as well as a captain to operate the boat. The movie "Captain Ron" comes to mind for this author! The best part about a basic boating charter is that you can sit back and enjoy the boating experience without having to worry about "literally" anything else. Well, except for the folks in that movie!

When you book a boating charter, be sure it's with a reputable company who has adequate insurance as well as enough experience to insure you of a safe and satisfying getaway. Choose a boat that's within your budget, but don't be afraid to splurge a little. After all, this is a boating getaway for you; why not enjoy it to the fullest!

Have you always dreamed of getting away to an exotic location but want to incorporate your love of boating with that trip? Charter a boat once you arrive. Then you can really have the vacation experience of a lifetime. There are very few places you can go where you won't find a boating charter company ready to book you on a cruise along the water.

Your trip can be a simple day trip up and down a river or it can be a week-long excursion where you can whale watch, swim with the dolphins, or just sit on deck and enjoy the scenery.

Boating charters are easy to come by and an amazing way for you to have a boating vacation that will be a memorable experience for years to come. Check out boating charters online before you book and then enjoy your trip!

## **Boating Clubs**

No matter where you are located, you will most likely have a boating club nearby. There are literally thousands of different boating clubs that you can join. A quick Internet search brings up over 100,000 boating clubs throughout the world!

To begin with, boating clubs are great places to meet people who share the same interest in boating that you do. People often join boating clubs for this specific purpose. Boating is an almost obsessive sport. When you know others who share that same passion, you'll fuel that fire in ways you never knew possible.

Boating clubs will also sponsor social events like boat shows that you can participate in. Social gatherings are great places to exchange information with other boaters and share your own knowledge. You can really learn so much about this sport just by talking with other people!

It doesn't matter what kind of boating you do, a boating club really is for you. Compare boats with other people. You may learn about a different style or brand of boat that you want to check out and even buy. Maybe you've got a 16 foot power boat and have always wanted to try a cabin cruiser. Find a fellow member who has the cabin cruiser and see what he or she has to say about that particular boat.

Many boating clubs offer members discounts on boating equipment and even on boating trips. They say that membership has its advantages. When you're an avid boater, that's certainly true with a boating club!

You can get boating lessons too in some clubs. Like golf clubs, there is usually a pro around to answer questions and teach techniques. If you want to learn about boating or brush up on some of the things you've gotten rusty at, just ask the pro!

Many boating clubs have their own "clubhouse" usually located on a body of water. They will let members ramp for free and take advantage of the water with no additional charges. The cost is usually included in membership dues. The club house may even have a gourmet restaurant for members to enjoy.

The benefits of joining a boating club are far-reaching. You will meet new friends, learn about boating more in-depth than ever before, and find new, exciting ways to make your boating experiences even more fulfilling than they already are. We're willing to bet there's a boating club near you. Find it and join today it's well worth the price!

## Boating for Kids

Probably the most important part of boating for kids is to teach them boat safety. Boating is an activity that the whole family can enjoy especially kids. Boating safety is something they need to learn early so that they can carry it with them throughout their lives into adulthood.

The number one safety rule when boating with kids is that they must wear a personal flotation device (PFD) at all times. Accidents can happen no matter how careful you are. The number one reason for drowning is when people are thrown overboard and are not wearing a PFD. Many kids can't swim well enough to stay afloat in a traumatic situation like that, so the PFD will literally save their life in most scenarios.

Teach your kids about the equipment that must be on all boats and why that equipment is there. For example, the fire extinguisher must be there in case of a fire on the water. Some kids think, "Why do we need a fire extinguisher when there's water all around to put out the fire?" Explain to them that not all fires should be put out with water. The boat runs on gas, and if a fire erupts, you should not put a gas fire out with water.

Boating safety for kids also entails letting them know what various distress signals are and why they are used. For example, flares indicate a stranded boat. A continuous foghorn means a problem on board, etc.

Older kids may want to try out steering the boat. This can be a very exciting time for them. Start them out slowly and above everything else, explain to them the "rules of the road" including which boats have the right of way and how to pass safely. Plus, you should definitely stress to them to travel at a safe speed and not too fast to avoid accidents.

Kids should also know about basic first aid procedures. They should know not to move a person who might have a broken limb and even how to perform mouth to mouth resuscitation. CPR might be a little advanced for younger kids, but older kids can learn CPR from a Red Cross first aid course.

When you are boating with kids, the experience can be great for all of you. It's a wonderful opportunity to teach them about nature, water life, and so much more. There are all sorts of boating trivia questions that kids will love to try and answer. Ask them why they think life jackets are orange and why they call the bathroom a head. You can make a game of your day on the water while boating and teach your kids valuable lessons. Boating for kids is a great learning opportunity that will stay with them forever and ever!

## **Boating Fun**

Boating is way more than a fun way to enjoy nature and the water. There are all sorts of ways to have fun boating. Think outside of the box and explore new ways to have fun on the water.

Of course, boating is fun. But when you have your family and friends along for the ride, the fun becomes massive! If you have a pontoon boat, this is a great opportunity to throw a party on the water and let those you care about enjoy boating as much as you do. Even if you own a speedboat, your friends and family will have a lot of fun taking turns on board as they enjoy water sports like skiing and tubing.

Part of boating is doing so responsibly. If you are captaining your vessel, avoid drinking alcohol. It can impair your judgment and can cause an accident. As you can imagine, THAT would not make boating fun!

Boating fun is easy to find when you enjoy your time on the water with your family. Keep a positive attitude and teach those around you what you are doing. Point out interesting sites on your trip. Liven the atmosphere with some boating trivia or boating songs. You might be surprised to see how much those around you will enjoy your trip when they see you enjoying it as well.

Part of the fun in boating is enjoying the scenery as you glide across the water. Don't let that pass you by. Take the time to watch as nature passes you by. Notice the color of the trees, pay attention to any wildlife you might see, find unique sights that you don't usually see. It might sound a little hokey, but we think you will find that noticing nature is definitely a big part of boating fun.

Water skiing, inner tubing, wake boarding, and fishing are all fun activities you can do while boating. In fact, many boat owners wouldn't think of owning a boat without having a ski rope or a fishing seat. Find the joy in these activities and fully embrace that joy. See the joy in the faces of those around you as well. That can be amazingly satisfying as you watch other people with smiles on their faces.

Having fun while boating is easy. Boating is an activity that should take you away from the stresses of everyday life. So sit back, relax a little, laugh a lot, and experience fun like you've never known all while boating!



## Boating Gear

What do you need to know when it comes to boating gear? What really is boating gear? We define boating gear as everything you need to outfit your boat to meet your specific personal needs. This can range from safety equipment to apparel. What is the essential boating gear every sailor should ideally have?

First, you need to have all the required safety equipment as outlined by the United States Coast Guard. That includes a fire extinguisher, life jackets for all people on board, a sound-making device like a horn or bell, and accurate lighting for boating at night. This boating gear is required by law and every boat must have them.

It's a good idea to outfit your boat with a radio so you can communicate with the shore. At the very least, you should have some type of cell phone or two-way radio in case of emergency. You can also put a stereo in your boat for personal enjoyment while on the water.

For docking and anchoring, you'll need an anchor, of course, as well as line to attach the anchor. You'll also need docking line so you can tie up at the pier. You'll also want some dock bumpers to avoid doing damage to your boat when mooring. These are like blow-up buoys that hang from the side of your boat.

When it comes to activities with your boat, the gear you need is probably a little bit obvious. If you will be water skiing, you'll need the skis as well as a strong tow rope. For inner-tubing, get a good tube that can hold more than one person. It's also a good idea to get a tube with handles. You need a tow rope to inner tube as well.

If you will be fishing, your boating gear will be a little different. Of course, you'll need your fishing gear rods, reels, bait, etc. But you will also need someplace to keep your catch like a water well or bucket. You should also have someplace to store your gear when it is on board.

A good navigation system is considered by some people an essential piece of boating gear. You can find a good GPS system for not too much money, and it can be a life saver should you find yourself lost on the water. At the very least, you need a good compass so you don't lose your way.

There are literally hundreds and hundreds of items that people consider essential boating gear. You have to choose which you really need and that you have to have. Boating gear is available in sporting goods stores as well as online, and the variety that is available will get your boat outfitted in style!

## **Boating Holidays**

When we speak of boating holidays, we aren't referring to a day set aside to celebrate everything boating although many boating enthusiasts would probably like a holiday like that! In Europe and many other places, vacations are referred to as holidays, so a boating holiday is essentially a boating vacation in Europe.

There are many wonderful boating holiday destinations around Europe. England is a great place to enjoy a boating holiday. They have miles and miles of canals where you can take a narrow boat up and down the water enjoying the beautiful countryside along the way. Narrow boats are like cabin cruisers with sleeping quarters and spacious places on deck for sightseeing.

One great part of taking a boating holiday in England is the availability of water side pubs where you can pull up to, tie off at a dock, and enjoy some old-fashioned English delicacies as well as some fine ale. Just be sure you don't overdo it lest you become a dangerous boat captain!

You may want to also look into an Irish boating holiday. Many say that cruising Ireland's rivers and lakes is an experience never to be forgotten and often repeated. Not only is the Irish countryside some of the most beautiful in Europe, there are many shore side places ripe for exploring including woods and castles open to the public.

There are many towns and villages along the way, and the local people are well-known for extending hospitality to visitors. The local shops and pubs on the waterways where you can find some great local entertainment found nowhere else. The fishing in Ireland is also excellent with some prize-winning trout, perch, and salmon readily found along the way.

Boating holidays in the beautiful country of France also are among top choices for avid boaters. French waterways travel through some of the most varied countryside in Europe with each region steeped in its own particular culture, history, and architecture.

The real France is found on a leisurely cruise along the French rivers and canals. On a boating holiday in France, you can see vineyards, chateaus, and quaint villages far from the usual tourist haunts. You can sample gourmet delights in beautiful country inns or feast on board your boat in the open air with some of the finest wines in the world.

Boating holidays in Europe are easily planned as there are boat rental places everywhere along the European waterways. Europe is a beautiful place, and when you plan a boating holiday in this beautiful part of the world, you're sure to have memories that you will want to share for lifetimes to come.

## **Boating Life**

There's so much to be said for living the boating life. Boaters have their own lifestyles. They live on boats, take their families boating, attend boating events, give boating gifts, have a unique code of etiquette and love to laugh about boating and the boating life. It's a wonderful way to look at the world from the deck of a boat.

Boating Life magazine embraces this lifestyle and is perfect for anyone who loves the wind in their faces as they skim across the water. Like many other boating magazines, this one offers its subscribers a plethora of information about the sport of boating.

Its sections include:

- \* Boat test drives
- \* Safety tips
- \* Boat maintenance
- \* Water sports
- \* Fun stuff
- \* And more!

There is a separate section for classified ads so you can look to buy products and even a new boat. If you have some extra equipment you want to get rid of, list it in the classified section. Want to upgrade to a bigger boat? Boating Life's classified section, again, is the perfect place.

Are you looking for some tips on the best places to travel by boat? Boating Life magazine has got tons of suggestions. They've already been there and can offer up tips and advice for you to take to heart.

Their website also has a lot of great information on the boating life. Have a question about boating and need an expert's advice? Ask it online. Curious about upcoming boating events? There's a section for that too! The website is located at [www.boatinglife.com](http://www.boatinglife.com).

You can get a free newsletter sent directly to your e-mailbox. This publication is a great way to stay up-to-date on all the new trends in boating and all you have to do is check your e-mail!

If you want to subscribe to Boating Life, you won't believe the offer they have on their website. To begin with, you can get your first issue FOR FREE! If you like it, do nothing and they will bill you for a two year subscription at just \$9.97! If you don't want to subscribe, just write "cancel" on the invoice and send it back to them. But with a rate of less than \$5 a year, why not keep it!

The boating life is a great way to live. If you want to embrace it fully, check out Boating Life magazine!

## **Boating Marinas**

A boating marina is a port within a sheltered harbor where boats are kept in the water. Boating marinas also offer services that meet the needs of the recreational boater. These services include offering gas, snacks, boating supplies, and more.

The boating marina is where you will find the boating ramp to get your boat on the water. Some marinas will offer out of water boat storage for the off-season. Boating marinas will also have extensive parking facilities for boaters and slips where boats can tie up while the boaters take care of their personal business.

Most boating marinas are privately operated often by clubs like yachting clubs or organizations. They usually charge a fee for ramping your boat and may also have membership fees to belong to the marina. But when you are a member, you will be able to take advantage of many opportunities marinas offer like boating classes, safety courses, and much more.

Almost all boating marinas will offer boat rentals for people who don't own boats. This is a great service for people who don't have the resources to own their own boats yet. The rental prices are usually quite reasonable and provide for a fun day on the water for almost everyone.

All bodies of water will have a boating marina in fact, many will have multiple marinas to serve many locations along the way. In some places, the marina business can be quite a competitive one as each tries to look for their share of business from eager boaters. However, because the marinas really have a captive audience so to speak from people on the water, don't expect to find any great bargains on gas or ramping fees.

Boat etiquette when in a marina is very important to know about. When you are ramping your boat, you should do so as quickly as you possibly can and then vacate the ramp area so others who are waiting to either drop or pick up their boat can do so. If there is a line, do not "cut" into it. Wait your turn no matter how impatient you might be. You'll get your share of dirty looks and perhaps cross words if you breach this unwritten rule.

When you are tied up at the boating marina, be sure you are in a slip away from traffic and not just floating out in the middle of the water hampering others abilities to get to a vacant slip. Be respectful of others in the marina and practice safe boating when backing out and getting back on the water. Many accidents happen in the marina, so pay special attention to the traffic around you as you're backing out or coming in.

Boating marinas are great oases where you can stock up on supplies, take advantage of services, and gas up your boat for more water fun. Use your local boating marina as what it's meant to be a service to you and everyone else out on the water!

## **Boating Recreation Sports**

There's no doubt about it that boating is a recreational sport. It's a calming, relaxing way to dump the stresses of life and glide along a smooth plate glass of water while enjoying the sights and sounds of nature around you. When you are into boating, there are a lot of sports you can explore for recreational value.

Water skiing is one of the most popular boating recreation sports that boaters do. It's fun to do and requires little in the way of equipment although the equipment can be a little expensive. A nice pair of water skis can run upwards of a couple hundred dollars, and a good slalom ski can be even more expensive. However, when you consider all you really need is skis and a tow rope, it's no wonder that water skiing is a popular boating recreation sport.

Another fun recreational sport to do while boating is wake boarding also known as boogie boarding. This involves taking a board much like a surfboard but smaller in size. A person kneels on the board while keeping hold of the tow rope and skims across the water jumping waves.

Inner tubing is also another recreational boating sport many people enjoy. The fun part about inner tubing is that it can be done by small children and older people alike. Many tubes designed for pulling behind a boat will have handles on them to make it easier to hold on while traveling across the waves.

Fishing is a recreational sport in and of itself, but when you are fishing while boating, you get double the enjoyment. You have access to areas not easily gotten to on land where the big fish are hiding just waiting for the tasty treat at the end of your fishing line. The leisurely float with a fishing pole in your hand is a great way to enjoy recreational boating sports.

For some people, the ultimate recreational activity while boating is just sitting back and relaxing while the shore passes by. In a world where everyday life can be so stressful, relaxing can itself be considered a sport. After all, people participate in sports because they like them. Why can't relaxation be a recreational boating sport as well?

The feel of the wind in your face as you are piloting your watercraft on a smooth lake is a recreational boating sport for anyone who loves boating. When you consider all of the other sports you can do while boating, the result is definitely some satisfying recreational activities.

## **Boating Safety Course**

If you are serious about boating, you really need to look into taking a boating safety course. When you are in charge of a powerful water craft on the water, it's so very important to practice safe boating procedures for both you as well as your fellow boaters.

There are all sorts of boating safety courses available to you when you look around. Check with the local marina and ask about what they have scheduled. If there is a boating club nearby, they will almost always offer a boating safety course for a small fee. These courses are usually taught by the club professional, so you'll know you are getting some good advice.

Turn to the United States Coast Guard for some really great tips on boating safety. The courses that are sanctioned by the USCG are taught all around the country. They take boating safety very seriously, so taking a USCG boating safety course will get you all the information you need.

With the rising popularity of the Internet, we are seeing more and more opportunities online. Taking a boating safety course is no different. There are many, many places online where you can take a course from the comfort of your own home. They will take you step-by-step through what you need to know and then quiz you on your progress. Here are a few places we've found that offer online boating courses:

- \* [www.boatsafe.com](http://www.boatsafe.com)
- \* [www.boat-ed.com](http://www.boat-ed.com)
- \* [www.boatingbasicsonline.com](http://www.boatingbasicsonline.com)
- \* [www.boatus.org](http://www.boatus.org)
- \* [www.uscgboating.org](http://www.uscgboating.org)

All of these courses are designed to teach you what you need to know about boating safety and prepare you for your next boating trip.

There are also many websites that have boating safety courses online for kids as well. It's essential that children know how to stay safe on board a boat. These courses are fun as well as informative and are geared directly to the younger generation.

You will see that these boating safety courses cover a variety of topics such as boat handling, reading the weather, required equipment on board, and the importance of wearing a life vest. The live boating safety courses are taught by licensed professionals. The online courses are often sanctioned by organizations that make them legitimate.

Taking a boating safety course can be the best step you can ever take toward responsible boating. Nothing will replace the information you'll get and you can take to the waters knowing that you are fully prepared to boat safely and respectfully.

## **Boating Trips**

One of the best parts of boating is taking trips to places you've always wanted to go. Boating trips can be simple day trips or week-long excursions. Many people say that just being on the water is a satisfying boating trip in and of itself.

When you are planning a boating trip, you need to decide many things. For example, how many people will be on the boat at one time? Is your boat equipped for overnight trips or just day trips? What supplies will you need to bring along with you? Answer these questions well before you leave so you will be prepared.

When you leave on an overnight boating trip, the first thing you should do is have your boat checked over by a professional. You will want the boat in top mechanical shape before you venture out on the water. Plus, you will want to be sure you have enough gas to make the trip. If you need to fuel up along the way, be sure you know where the gas stops are.

Map out your trip on a navigation map of the body of water you are going on. Physically, take a pen or pencil and draw the route you will be taking. When you have it all plotted out on a map complete with longitudinal and latitudinal lines will help keep you on track and reduce your chances of getting lost.

Be sure to tell someone you are going on a boating trip. Let them know your planned itinerary and when you will be in certain places along the way. It's also a good idea to check in whenever you port so that they will know that everything is alright.

There are some great places you can go on boating trips. Of course, that depends on where you are located and whether or not you are willing to haul your boat to a place where you can "shove off". However, many bodies of water like the Mississippi River link into other bodies of water like the Gulf of Mexico. You can literally leave out from St. Louis, Missouri, and boat all the way to New Orleans, Louisiana.

Ocean boating trips need to have special considerations during planning. Check with the Coast Guard as to how you should plan your trip so that you stay out of shipping lanes where the larger ships travel. This is especially true if you have a smaller boat, which you probably do. Avoiding accidents on the ocean is very important as it is on smaller bodies of water.

Boating trips are great ways to escape from reality and get some well-needed rest and relaxation. The water is soothing and you will be able to explore places from the comfort of your boat your home away from home! Plan boating trips carefully and then enjoy your time on the water!

## **Boating World**

Boating World magazine is one of the primary publications dedicated to the sport of boating from many angles. When you consider a boating magazine, you really should look at Boating World. It is a comprehensive guide to everything boating that offers its readers more than just a few articles about boats.

Boating World has articles on many subjects. These subjects range from how to take care of your boat, where the best boating spots are, what to serve on board when you are having a party, and much, much more. These articles are geared towards everyone who loves boating and that includes especially the readers of Boating World.

They review different boats and name the advantages and disadvantages of each. Boating World can help you know the best features of different types of boats and help guide you toward choosing the right boat for you. There are many different types of watercraft on the market. Depending on what you want to use it for, you'll appreciate this valuable information.

One great feature of Boating World magazine is their "how-to" sections. In these parts of the magazine, they show you how to do things like turn your pontoon boat into a cabin cruiser, how to apply numbers and letters to the hull, and how to research a boat purchase.

Like many paper publications, Boating World also has a great website you can visit for even more information. Located at [www.boatingworldonline.com](http://www.boatingworldonline.com), you will find articles, information about fishing, boat reviews, and ways to enjoy water sports in a whole new way.

Their website is easy to navigate and even has a section where you can research boating destinations you might like to visit on your next vacation. They'll even give you information on the best vehicles to buy in order to easily tow your new boat!

Boating World publishes ten times per year, and their subscription rates are quite reasonable. A one-year subscription will run just \$9.95, and you can sign up online at their website. They also offer a money-back guarantee if you are not satisfied in any way with their magazine.

In the pages of Boating World magazine, you will find all sorts of great information about this sport that many people love. When you love a sport like boating, learning as much as you can about it can really be an eye-opening experience. There's so much to know about boating and Boating World magazine is a great way to learn.



## Family Boating

There's no better activity for the family to enjoy together than boating. Family boating is a great way to connect with each other, enjoy nature, and get a little exercise. Want some suggestions on how to enjoy your next family boating adventure? Well read on!

Start by planning your trip together. Get out a map and find a destination you can all agree on. Depending on your budget, your trip can be nearby or far away. There are lots and lots of places where family boating is not only encouraged, but it is embraced. Just be sure it's someplace you all want to go to.

When picking a destination, make sure there are facilities that can accommodate your boat. Some bodies of water will not allow boats over a specific size. Others don't have tie-up docks where you can leave your boat overnight which means you'll have to put the boat in and take the boat out every day you want to go on the water.

Family boating means being together as a family on the boat. But sometimes too much togetherness can be a bad thing. So wherever you choose to go, pick a place that has a variety of activities. If Dad wants to spend the day fishing but Mom hates the idea, maybe there's a spa nearby where she can pamper herself.

Involve your children in the planning process. Once you've found a place you all like, let the kids do the hard work ♦ the research. Have them plan a route to get there, find the docking facilities, the boat ramps, campsites, etc. Make it like a scavenger hunt and they'll be just as excited about your family boating trip as you are!

When you're on board the boat, give everyone a job. Have a captain, a first mate, a cabin girl/boy, a galley cook, etc. Make sure everyone knows their duties and let them have fun with it. You may want to keep a book with all pertinent information in it so your "crew" can refer to it when they need to.

Also be sure that all family members know about boating safety. Maybe you could all take a boating safety class. This is very important because take precautions for safe boating is essential to a good time.

Family boating can be a wonderful, wonderful experience for everyone. Approach it with an open mind, a laid-back attitude, and a desire to have fun. If you have a boat, get it out and bring the family along for a great day you'll all remember for a very long time!

## House Boating

No family vacation is quite as fun and interesting as a house boating vacation. If you are lucky enough to own a house boat, that's wonderful. However, most people can't afford the luxury of a house boat. That's why if you're interested in house boating, you'll want to look into renting one.

House boats are amazing vessels with all the comforts of home. They have separate sleeping quarters, a galley (kitchen), and even bathroom facilities. Many house boats even have microwaves and televisions.

When you begin researching your house boating rental, there are a few factors to keep in mind. First, make sure it can handle the amount of people who will be along on the house boating vacation. If you have a family of 6 and there's only sleeping for 4, you'll be awfully cramped.

Be sure that the place you rent from gives you a boating course before you get out on the water. You will most likely be captaining your own boat, and if you have no house boating experience, you'll need a crash course for safety, if nothing else!

Make sure you know whether or not fuel costs are included in the rental price. If you will be responsible for buying your own gas, you will want to know ahead of time so you can budget. Also, ask for a copy of the insurance policy on the boat. You may have to add a temporary rider to your own insurance to be covered, so that's a good question to ask.

When you are on your house boating vacation, take the time to enjoy where you are at. That means you should by all means stop along the way and take advantage of the shoreline sights and offerings. For example, if there's a beach along the way, drop anchor and enjoy the sun and sand for a day.

Some house boat rental places will also rent water equipment to you like jet skis. If you will be towing them behind, be sure you know about safety concerns that need to be adhered to. Many companies will also let you tow boats behind so you can enjoy whatever area you decide to dock up to.

Rates for house boating rentals are about what you would pay for a land locked rental like a condo. Depending on where you are, rentals for the week can run anywhere from \$1,000 to \$5,000. If you want a larger craft, you will, obviously, pay a little more. Just consider what nightly motel rental is and multiply out the cost. You won't have restaurant costs when house boating because it has a kitchen you can stock for your entire trip.

House boating can be an immensely enjoyable experience for you and your family. Vacationing really can be leisurely and fun. For your next getaway, try house boating and know why so many people enjoy it!

## Party Boating

The words “party boating” conjure up images of wild on board antics with alcohol abounding and beautiful ladies dancing in skimpy bikinis. Come on, you know that's what you were thinking about! The reality is that party boating is a lot of that, but it truly is so much more.

We need to begin this article by stressing that if you are captaining a water craft, you should keep your alcohol consumption to a minimum. Boating while intoxicated is a serious issue, and you risk injury and even death to you as well as your fellow partiers. A boat is just as dangerous as a car even more so because you have the added factor of choppy waters instead of stable roads. Boat responsibly and drink less.

Party boating is a great way to connect with friends in a way that helps everyone have fun. Generally, the best party boating is done on a pontoon boat or a yacht. Pontoon boats are more affordable for the everyday Joe, but if you're lucky enough to have a yacht party away!

The best elements of great party boating are lots of food and drink. Of course, you'll have to have the room which is why a big pontoon boat that can accommodate a lot of people and a lot of food with ease. Make up a few hors d'oeuvres like chicken wings, chips and dip, and a cheese platter and lay them out on a table on board.

You'll want to have lots of coolers on hand to hold your beverages. It's a good idea to keep things simple since you're going to be on the water. Bringing along tons of mixers for drinks just isn't practical, so keep it to aluminum cans for beer and soda and wine coolers for those non-beer drinkers.

No party is complete without music and when you are party boating, the situation is no different. If your boat doesn't have its own stereo system, bring along a portable stereo and have plenty of batteries on hand. Have a variety of music available to meet the needs of your fellow partiers and let the music play!

Be sure you have life jackets for everyone on board, and make sure that no one does anything stupid. One of the cardinal rules of party boating is no drunken skiing or tubing and definitely no drunken swimming. Keep an eye on your guests and keep them safe.

Owning a boat is a wonderful advantage when you want to party boat, but there are ways that you can go party boating and have a blast without causing any problems for anyone else. Remember to be mindful of your fellow boaters and stay safe. And then, let the good times roll!

## **Recreational Boating**

To some people, the term “recreational boating” seems like an oxymoron of sorts. After all, why else would you go boating? There are people who make their living boating whether it's participating in regattas or speed boat racing. Most people however use their boats for recreational purposes only.

Recreational boating is exactly what it sounds like using a boat for having fun. You can do so many things with a boat, and all of them are fun depending on who you are and what you like. You can fish, swim, water ski, tube, or just relax and enjoy the water.

Millions of people enjoy recreational boating. Statistics say that on average one in every six households in the United States own a boat. An even larger number take advantage of rental opportunities renting a watercraft to enjoy a day on the water.

Of course, one of the biggest parts of recreational boating has to be knowing how to do it safely. For many people, an ideal day on the water includes a few cocktails, or actually more than a few. It is possible to actually get a BUI (boating while intoxicated) ticket, and accidents are much more likely to happen when the driver of a boat is impaired by alcohol.

For passengers who are consuming alcohol, there is also a risk. People who have had too much to drink tend to be unsteady on their feet. Add to that equation the fact that you are on a body of water that is unsteady as well, and you could very well have a “man overboard” scenario.

It's best to keep alcohol consumption to a minimum while on the water. If you must drink, do so in moderation and be aware of how impaired you are before a problem occurs.

Mind the rules of the “road” when boating and expect others to be doing the same. Accidents are dramatically reduced when people obey the unwritten (and written) rules that the United States Coast Guard has set forth. Be considerate of others and you will greatly enjoy your boating excursion

Recreational boating also means being considerate of others on the same body of water. One of the best parts of boating is tying up in a cove and meeting new people. Keep in mind basic rules of courtesy and treat others like you would want to be treated. You'll be surprised at how many wonderful friends you can make on the lake!

Recreational boating is one of the most enjoyable activities you can undertake. Take a few steps to know what you are doing and then enjoy it to the fullest. You will find more recreational activities while boating that you can participate in even in your older years.

## **Sailing Boating**

One of the most satisfying and electrifying types of boating is sailing. You can get a whole bunch of exercise as you struggle with the sails, and the feel of the wind powering your boat is like no other feeling you will have. Seeing a majestic sail boat on a body of water is a beautiful sight as well.

There is a lot to learn when you are going to take up sailing as your boating choice. It's not as simple as just putting the boat in the water, hoisting the sail, and taking off. You may want to explore a course on sailing so you can learn the basics from a pro. There are some very important parts of sailing that you must learn correctly and accurately.

When selecting a course, be sure it covers a variety of topics from a professional viewpoint. Check out their boating qualifications when it comes to sailing, and be sure you are being taught by a professional. The sailing course will probably last more than one day, so plan for it to last a few days.

Sailing can be a very fun boating adventure. On a clear, sunny day, when the sails are hoisted, and the wind picks up, you'll find yourself smiling as you sail smoothly along the water. Sit on the deck and enjoy the scenery passing by.

You can teach your children the fine art of sailing as well. It's a great opportunity for families to bond as they work together to bring the boat under control and out on the ocean.

When you are sailing, you need to pay special attention to the traffic around you. Remember that you are powered solely by nature. Other boats have the benefit of gas which makes them easier to handle and more accurate when turning and navigating. You'll have to be especially aware of how close you are to others who are boating and keep it safe on the water.

The basic rule of sailing is that it is not possible to sail directly into the wind at least not for a very long time. A sailboat can sail at approximately 45 degrees off the wind. When your destination is upwind, you will need to do some maneuvering with the wind so that you can ultimately arrive at your destination.

When you love boating, taking up sailing is a natural extension of that love. The sun in your face, the wind in your sails, and your sailboat clipping across the water can give you a satisfying and electric day at sea. Know that sailing is a form of boating that just can't be easily matched.

## **Summer Boating**

When summer hits, there's no better time to go boating on a nice, cool body of water. It's also the time when hundreds of other boaters have the same idea that you do. Summer boating is great fun at a hot time of the year, but there are some things you'll need to take into consideration before you get your boat on the water.

First, remember that there will be many other boaters on the water at the same time as you. Brush up on the rules of the "road" and pay special attention to those around you. Remember when it's safe to pass, how close you are allowed to get to another boat, and how to be courteous to others.

Summer is hot and when you are boating, you are in the sun most of the time. To avoid a nasty sunburn, use plenty of sunscreen with a sun protection factor (SPF) of at least 15 if not higher. Children should especially be protected with a good sunscreen as their delicate skin can burn quite easily.

Make sure that you stay well hydrated. In the hot weather, you lose fluid quite quickly. Drink plenty of water and avoid excessive amounts of alcohol. Alcohol has a dehydrating effect and will deplete the fluids from your body much more quickly than naturally.

The weather can change in an instant, so when boating in the summer, be sure to pay close attention to the weather forecast. You certainly won't want to be stuck 4 miles off shore when that freak summer storm hits. Don't play games with the weather especially in the summer. Your safety depends on it!

Pay special attention to your boat in the hot summer months. It's hot outside and the engine is hot as well. Check the boat's fluids often so that you don't run the risk of the engine overheating leaving you stranded in the middle of the lake.

Even though it's hot, you still need to wear your life jacket. This is especially true with children. Almost all drownings that occur become fatal because a person is thrown overboard and is not wearing a life jacket. A little discomfort from the heat is well worth paying the price when you consider you could be compromising your life.

Summer is definitely the best time of the year to go boating. As long as you keep your safety rules in mind, fun is just around the corner. Summer boating is also a great time to get your family together and enjoy a day on the water. What a way to beat the heat!

## **Conclusion**

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