

# 14 BOATING ORGANIZATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

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## BOATING ORGANIZATIONS

### *COAST GUARD*

#### **U.S. Coast Guard**

Homepage: <http://www.uscg.mil/>  
National Response Center: 800-424-8802 or 202-267-2675  
Public Affairs: 202-267-1587  
Navigation Center (local notices to mariners):  
703-313-5800  
Boating Safety Education: 800-368-5647

The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) currently operates as part of the Department of Homeland Security, but in times of war may serve under the Department of the Navy.

From a recreational boater's perspective, the most significant missions of the USCG are:

- Aiding mariners in distress (i.e., search and rescue)
- Enhancing marine safety by setting safe boating standards and regulations along with programs to help educate the boating public in safe boating practices

In addition, the USCG carries out a number of other duties, some of which relate to law enforcement and yet others related to mobility (marine navigation). Examples of enforcement activities include port and maritime security (a high priority today), drug and illegal alien interdiction, enforcement of environmental regulations, etc. Navigation operations include maintaining aids to navigation, administering bridges, traffic and waterway management, ice breaking, and other activities contributing to the safe and efficient movement of vessels through our waterways.

The USCG is organized into nine districts with headquarters in Washington, D.C. Each district is assigned a number from 1 to 17, so some numbers are not used. The districts are as follows:

The U.S. Power Squadrons (USPS) were organized in 1914 as an organization to educate yacht club members in the safe operation of the then new-fangled motorboats (as opposed to sailboats). Shortly after World War I, the squadrons were re-organized to provide education to the general boating public. Today the squadron is no longer limited to powerboating and has both sailors (about 40 percent) and powerboaters comprising a membership of approximately 60,000 boaters organized into about 450 squadrons.

The way the squadron education program works is that the more experienced members volunteer their time to instruct classes in various aspects of boating and then, with time and experience, the newly educated members will (hopefully) go on to be instructors themselves. Courses held include:

- The Public Boating Course—open to the public. Passing the exam for this course, qualifies the student to operate a boat in those states where certification is required, as well as in Canada. A pass in this or an equivalent course is required to join the USPS.
- Seamanship
- Piloting
- Advanced Piloting
- Junior Navigation (includes celestial navigation)
- Navigation
- Sail
- Weather
- Engine Maintenance
- Marine Electronics (and Electrical)
- Cruise Planning

There is even a squadron in Boulder, Colorado, of which I am proud to say I am a member. We have members who have sailed from California to the South Pacific and back; at least one who has circumnavigated (the world); those who have sailed the so-called Great Loop (up the eastern seaboard and back down the Mississippi); and others who keep boats on either coast. As I write this (June 2004), we have several members crossing the Atlantic in the Nordhavn Atlantic Rally 2004 from Florida to Gibraltar. Of course, being in Colorado, we also have members who canoe, sail, powerboat, and water-ski on our local lakes, rivers, and reservoirs.

The USPS and the USCGA collaborated in developing the *America's Boating Course*, as mentioned previously.

## **American Power Boat Association**

Homepage: <http://www.apba-racing.com>  
General information: 586-773-9700

The American Power Boat Association (APBA) was founded in 1903 and is the authority for UIM approved powerboat racing in the United States. UIM stands for Union Internationale Motonautique, which is the world boat racing authority based in Monaco. This organization is somewhat analogous to U.S. Sailing except it is more focused on racing. For more information, check the website or call the general information number.

## **America's Great Loop Cruisers' Association**

Homepage: <http://www.greatloop.com/>  
General Phone: 865/856-7888

This is an association for boaters who are interested in cruising America's Great Loop and associated waterways. The Great Loop is the continuous waterway that circumnavigates the eastern portion of North America —along the Atlantic Seaboard, across the Great Lakes, through the Mississippi and Tenn-Tom Rivers to the Gulf of Mexico, and around Florida.

The association disseminates information regarding the loop and provides a bimonthly newsletter, and a member directory to help keep in touch with other "loopers". 2 or 3 annual rendezvous are held that include seminars, information exchange, and socialization with other boaters.

If you are thinking about doing the Loop, this is the organization to join. Membership is about \$33.00 per year.

## **BoatUS**

Homepage: <http://www.boatus.com/>  
General phone: 703-461-4666  
Boating course information: 410-897-0512  
Boat loans: 800-365-5636  
Towing assistance: 800-391-4869  
Insurance quotes: 800-283-2883  
Insurance claims: 800-937-1937  
MMSI ID number assignment: 800-563-1536 (VHF DSC)

This is an organization with over a half-million members; every boater should consider joining. BoatUS not only provides many services to members but also acts as an effective advocate for recreational boaters with local, state, and federal

## U.S. Sailing

Homepage: <http://www.ussailing.org/>  
General inquiries: 401-683-0800, extension 600

As the name implies, this is a sailing rather than a powerboat organization, and U.S. Sailing is, in fact, the governing body for sailing and sailboat racing in the United States. It is a nonprofit organization and currently has about 40,000 members.

Although U.S. Sailing is heavily involved in sailboat racing, it offers programs for sailors of all types, with varying levels of expertise. It also trains and certifies instructors, race officers, judges, and the like, and is involved in developing teaching curriculums and handicapping systems.

U.S. Sailing is involved in many other areas, including the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic sailing teams, and the International Sailing Federation (ISAF). There is also an insurance program for members.

The website can point you to an affiliated organization in your area if you are interested in learning to sail or race. You can also join U.S. Sailing online. Check out the website to get a better idea of how comprehensive its programs are.

## PHONE NUMBERS

### State Boating Offices and Police

**Alabama** <http://www.dcnr.state.al.us/MP.html>

Marine police: 334-242-3673

Highway patrol: 334-242-4128

**Alaska** <http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/parks/boating/index.htm>

Boating safety: 907-269-8705

State troopers: 907-269-5976

**Arizona** [http://www.gf.state.az.us/outdoor\\_recreation/boating.shtml](http://www.gf.state.az.us/outdoor_recreation/boating.shtml)

Boating information: 602-942-3000

Highway patrol: 603-223-2000

**Arkansas** <http://www.agfc.state.ar.us/index.html>

Boating info: 501-223-6351

Registration: 501-223-6378

State police: 501-618-8000

**Airline Phone Numbers**

Aeroflot	800-736-4192
Aerolineas Argentinas	800-333-0276
Aeromexico	800-237-6639
Air Aruba	800-882-7822
Air Canada	888-247-2262
Air France	800-237-2747
Air India	800-223-7776
Air Jamaica	800-523-5585
Air New Zealand	800-262-1234
Alaska Airlines	800-426-0333
Alitalia	800-223-5730
All Nippon Airways	800-235-9262
Aloha Airlines	800-367-5250
America West	800-235-9292
American Airlines	800-433-7300
American Eagle	800-433-7300
Bahamas Air	800-222-4262
Big Sky Airlines	800-237-7788
British Airways	800-247-9297
CanJet	800-809-7777
Cathay Pacific	800-233-2742
Cayman Airways	800-441-3003
China Airlines	800-227-5118
Continental Airlines	800-525-0280
Delta Airlines	800-221-1212
Florida Coastal Airlines	888-435-9322
Frontier Airlines	800-432-1359
Great Lakes Airlines	800-554-5111
Hawaiian Airlines	800-367-5320
Hooters Air	888-359-4668
Icelandair	800-223-5500
Indian Airlines	866-435-9422 (U.S.) 866-770-7799 (Canada)
JAL Japan Airlines	800-525-3663
Korean Air	800-438-5000
LanChile Airways	800-735-5526

Lufthansa	800-645-3880
Mesa Airlines	800-637-2247
Mexicana	800-531-7921
Midwest Airlines	800-452-2022
Northwest Airlines	800-225-2525
Pan Am	800-359-7262
Philippine Airlines	800-435-9725
Polynesian Airlines	800-644-7659
Qantas Airways	800-227-4500
SAS Scandinavian Airlines	800-221-2350
Saudi Arabian Airlines	800-472-8342
South African	800-722-9675
Southwest Airlines	800-435-9792
Swiss	877-359-7947
TAM—Brazilian Airlines	888-235-9826
United Airlines	800-241-6522
US Airways	800-428-4322
Varig	800-468-2744
Virgin	800-862-8621

### **Lost Credit Card Phone Numbers**

American Express	800-528-4800 or 336-393-1111
Diners Club/Carte Blanche	800-234-6377 or 303-799-1504
Discover	800-347-2683 or 801-902-3100
MasterCard	800-622-7747 or 636-722-7111
Visa	800-847-2911 or 410-581-9994