

September 2007

Flip-Flop Farewell

Say farewell to white, officially retire your flip-flops, and pack away those swim trunks until further notice. Labor Day marks the last of the long weekends and the arrival of Fall.

Fall isn't the only season to make its grand entrance this month. September also marks the arrival of boat show season. This has always been an exciting time of year at NBOA. Our schedules are bustling; we seem to have packed just about every show on the roster into our plans. What better way to share the experience than to focus this month's issue of Nautical Notes on the busy season? Not much of a boat show guru? Articles on commercial

vessel safety and tips on proper engine maintenance are also featured.

Enjoy September's edition of Nautical Notes and if you are in the area of one of our many scheduled events, come visit us at our booth!

Safe Boating Always,
The NBOA Crew



NBOA agents are ready for their close-ups! From left to right: Bill Glass, Jim Butler, Mickey Mitchell, Clyde McCleary, Phil Harnden, and Jeffrey Berndt.

Safety Tip: Commercial Vessel Cautions

While our inland and coastal waterways bustle with hundreds of recreational boats, they also play host to barges, tugboats, towboats, and large cruise ships. It is important to be aware of the constraints under which these vessels operate and the dangers they produce for recreational boaters. Here are a few helpful facts to remember when operating your boat near commercial vessels:

- The speed of large commercial vessels is deceptive. It may seem like they are moving slowly from a distance but in reality they cover one mile in seven minutes at their slowest pace. Even worse, it takes $\frac{3}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles for them to come to a complete stop. So don't ever attempt to cross navigational paths with vessels of this size, you will most likely always underestimate their speed.

- Tugboats and towboats have powerful engines so keep from passing alongside them in narrow canals. Passing too close could pull you right into the tow.
- Staying a distance behind large vessels can be potentially dangerous as well. "Wheel wash" is a strong underwater current caused by towboat or ship engines, and it results in severe turbulence hundreds of yards behind the vessel.
- Understand whistle signals. Five or more short blasts on the whistle means "danger." Stay clear of all vessels emitting this signal.



The basic rule of thumb is to be extra cautious and refrain from doing recreational activities like water skiing or jet skiing near commercial vessels. Forget the excitement of their large wakes, the potential for accidents is not worth the risk.

Cool Weather, Hot Season



Boat Show season is here again and the marine industry is counting on this year's shows to heat up its otherwise tepid market. It seems a bit ironic that Fall and Winter boat shows have the largest impact on boating sales, but according to Bryan Seti, national marketing

manager of Yamaha Motor Corp., Fall and Winter are the best time to purchase boats and other affiliated products. "Those who wait until late spring or summer to make their purchase are often disappointed to learn that the new vessel they want is sold out." He goes on to claim dealers are often more motivated to sell when their sales floor is filled with new products.

Attending boat shows is an excellent opportunity to experience the boating lifestyle. All entities of the industry participate, displaying their particular products or services. It is the best way to see the newest models and equipment for 2008.

This month's biggest events are in Michigan City, Boston, Newport, and Cedar Point. To find out more on boat shows near you, visit NMMA at www.nmma.org.

NBOA Invitation

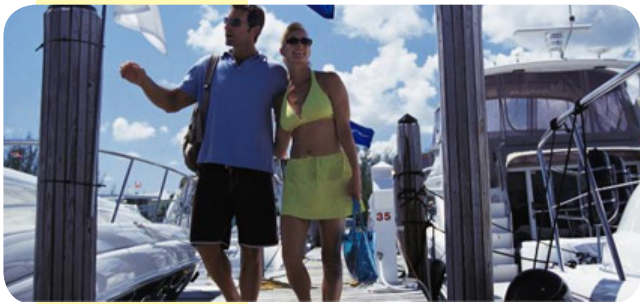
NBOA is gearing up for another busy boat show season. As you can tell from our September schedule, we are starting out with quite an itinerary.

We enjoy every opportunity to meet our customers and fellow boating enthusiasts, so if you are in the area of any one of our scheduled shows, come visit us and check out our new exhibit! Speak to our agents about the many ways NBOA can service your boating needs.

If you are already a member of NBOA's special towing program, show our agent your membership card and get a complimentary gift!

NBOA Boat Show Schedule

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| Sept. 6 - 9 | Atlantic City In-Water Boat Show Atlantic City, NJ www.acinwaterboatshow.com |
| Sept. 7 - 9 | Tampa Boat Show Tampa, FL www.tampaboatshow.com |
| Sept. 12 - 16 | North American Sail & Power Boat Show – Sandusky, OH www.northamericanboatshow.com |
| Sept. 13 - 16 | Newport Intl. Boat Show Newport, RI www.newportboatshow.com |
| Sept. 14 - 16 | Virginia In-Water Boat Show Norfolk, VA www.virginiaboatexpo.com |
| Sept. 19 - 23 | Boat Show USA Mt. Clemens, MI www.boatshowusa.net |
| Sept. 20 - 23 | Norwalk Intl. In-Water Boat Show Norwalk, CT www.boatshownorwalk.com |
| Sept. 21 - 23 | Grand Haven Boat Show Grand Haven, MI www.ghboatshow.com |
| Sept. 27 - 30 | Boston International In-Water Boat Show – Boston, MA www.bostoninwaterboatshow.com |
| Sept. 27 - 30 | NY/NJ Intl. Boat Show Jersey City, NJ www.nynjboatshow.com |



Shopping For A Boat: The key to finding the perfect vessel

You have made countless purchases in your life time, and by now you consider yourself a pro when it comes to divvying up this year's salary and savings for the things you desire most. But underestimate the complications that come with purchasing a boat and you will be forced to reevaluate your ability to acquire material possessions with finesse. Buying a boat is no picnic; here is a list of helpful tips to make sure your purchase goes as smoothly as possible.

Know what you want: Take some time to narrow down your choices to a short list of boat models. Make separate lists of features that you require, desire, and dislike for each model. This will help you from getting side-tracked when visiting boat shows and dealers. It is also beneficial to be knowledgeable of your top choices. Go online and search for references, performance reports, and ratings. The more you know about your top choices, the easier it will be to decide on the best model for you.

Window shop: Once you have narrowed your choices down, visit a local boat show and start window shopping - board as many boats as you can and speak with just as many dealers. This is your chance to apply what you learned previously and choose which dealer you want to work with. Discover Boating recommends buying from Marine Industry Certified Dealers. To find a certified dealer in your area [click here](#).

Consider warranties: Investigate the warranties for every boat you consider purchasing. Warranties

are valuable and a definite influence when making your decision. Make sure to find out what the warranty includes (engine, hull, components, accessories, service). If you are considering buying a pre-owned boat, be sure to get a marine survey.

Document your prospects: It is surprising how easily you can confuse one boat with another, especially after a full day of boarding boats and speaking with dealers. To stay focused, take notes and record your opinions on each boat you visited. It is very helpful if you take pictures as well. Photographs of the hull, deck, galley, and head will help you tell the difference between your top choices as well as remind you of their unique characteristics.

Do not rush: There is no specific amount of time it takes to shop for a boat. It all depends on the individual. If you find a boat at your local show but wish to take a little more time to decide whether it is right for you, you can always ask the dealer to honor their "show special" price if you come back a few weeks later to make the purchase. Chances are the answer will be yes.

Forecast expenses: The spending does not end with the purchase of your new boat. Be sure to consider all of the additional costs that come with owning a boat. Calculate finance charges, insurance payments, storage, and maintenance fees to help you decide whether or not you can afford this particular lifestyle. For great rates on insurance, contact NBOA! We really do have the best prices when it comes to quality coverage.





The Engine Physical

A helpful checklist from NBOA!

As a general rule of thumb, these are a few things you should make note of before launching your boat:

- Make sure you know where CO exhaust outlets are located on your vessel.
- Educate all passengers about the symptoms of CO poisoning and where CO may accumulate.
- When docked, or rafted with another boat, be aware of their exhaust emissions.
- Confirm that water flows from the exhaust outlet when the engines and generator are started.
- Listen for any change in exhaust sound, which could indicate an exhaust component failure.

- Test the operation of each CO alarm by pressing the test button.

Once a month you should check the following:

- Make sure all exhaust clamps are in place and secure
- Look for exhaust leaking from system components. Signs include rust and/or black streaking, water leaks, and corroded or cracked fittings.
- Inspect rubber exhaust hoses for burned, cracked, or deteriorated sections. All rubber hoses should be pliable and free of kinks.

Once a year you should have a marine technician do the following:

- Replace exhaust hoses if cracking, charring, or deterioration is found.

- Ensure that your engines and generators are properly tuned, and well maintained.

- Inspect each water pump impeller and the water pump housing. Replace if worn, and make sure cooling systems are in working condition.

- Inspect all metallic exhaust components for cracking, rusting, leaking, or loosening. Make sure they check the cylinder head, exhaust manifold, water injection elbow, and the threaded adapter between the manifold and the elbow.

- If equipped, clean, inspect, and confirm proper operation of the generator cooling water anti-siphon valve.

Ship's Store: Featured Product



The Deluxe Inflatable PFD by Mustang Survival is the perfect combination of safety and comfort. Its lightweight design makes it easy to wear over a shirt or jacket, and it inflates when immersed in water or if you pull the emergency cord. Other features include a safety inspection window (to inspect inflator status), comfortable neoprene collar to eliminate neck irritation, durable nylon construction, and a d-ring. If

you refrain from using a PFD on-board because of their bulky and uncomfortable form, Mustang's Deluxe Inflatable PFD is the perfect solution.

For more Mustang Survival products, visit NBOA's Ship's Store! [Click Here](#)