

# The Better Boating Handbook

Boat Like A Boss with  
the Boatanista

Lisa Almeida, the “Boatanista”

<https://boatanista.com/>



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# Meet Lisa

Boating is not just something I do. It is a part of who I am, the core of my being. It is in my DNA.

Of course, even as a lifelong Floridian, it is not essential that I always be out on the water. Sometimes I prefer to be in it.

I bought my first boat when I was 24 and I have been a Boat U.S. member ever since. My deepest joy has always been to share my love of the water with others. I am so blessed to live in my city, Jacksonville, Florida that has such a beautiful river, intracoastal waterway, and easy access to the ocean.

My operating principle became, “If you can go by boat, why would you go by car?” I am proud to say I have been to many Jaguar games, but never by car, only by boat. As a woman boater I relish the chance to help women become confident, enthusiastic boaters.



**Read her full bio:**

[https://boatanista.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/FBC\\_LisaFlyerNew.pdf](https://boatanista.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/FBC_LisaFlyerNew.pdf)

# BOATING SAFETY

## Boat Safe, Have Fun

There are many reasons to love boating. No two outings are ever the same. Boating provides a wonderful combination of nature, wide-open skies, getting away from traffic and congestion, and the freedom of cruising along the waterways, no curbs, lined lanes, or traffic lights. Therein lies the potential for trouble, especially when it comes to tubing.

There's a fine line between excitement and danger. It is a line not worth crossing. There are too many sad endings to justify the risks. Here is a list of [safety tips](#) to keep you out of trouble.



### **Here are some things that can keep you safe while tubing:**

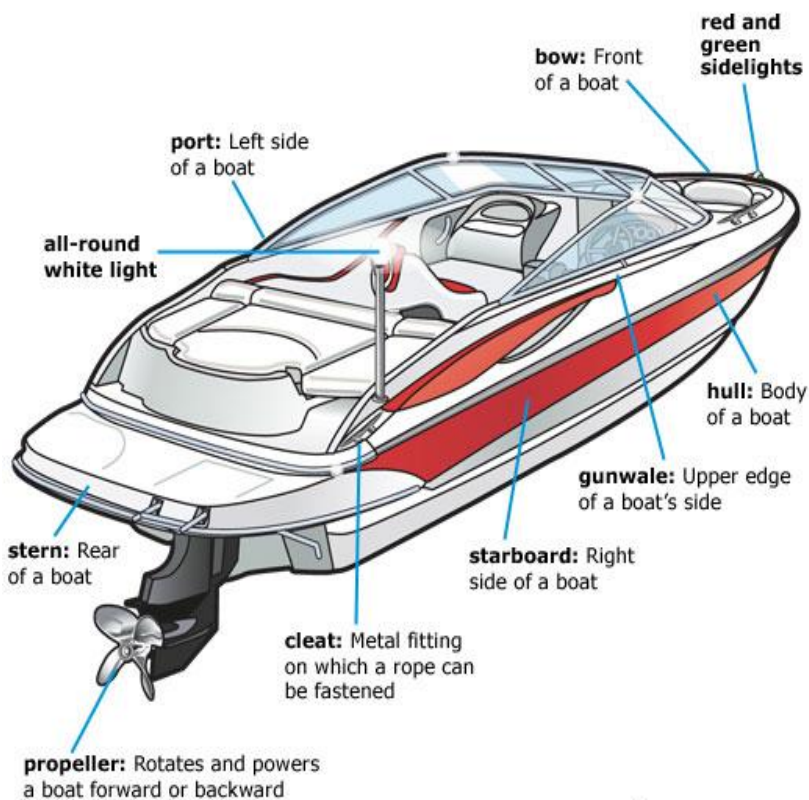
1. Make sure that your ropes are in good shape with no fraying or worn areas. If the rope breaks there will be no control.
2. Make sure that the tube is inflated to its proper size. If it's under-inflated over-inflated it can be a problem. Under-inflated tubes tend to drag in the water and not carry the people on it the correct way.
3. All riders, regardless of age, need to have a life jacket on that fits properly. Make sure they are properly sized. As captain, you must insist everyone wears one. No life jacket, no ride.
4. A long-sleeve shirt a good rash guard, especially for younger riders.
5. Make sure that you have the age-appropriate sized tube or water toy for the riders. You don't want to put a five-year-old kid on a tube that's way too big for them.
6. Find an area of safe, open water. Boat traffic is a fact of life and so are pilings and markers. Steer clear! The captain has to be aware of how much that a tube rider is going to be projected out from the back of the boat.
7. The boat driver needs to maintain 360-degree awareness of his or her surroundings. The driver has to have a really good sense about what's going on around them and what might happen in the coming moments as they begin to turn the boat. They also have to make sure that a boat or jet ski doesn't dart out in front of them.

# BOATING SAFETY

## How Boats Work

People say there is no place like home but I disagree. There is no place like being on a boat. However, just like a home, you have to know the major components in order to use it properly and know when things are not running properly.

The first step in boating safety is knowing the major components of the boat and what to avoid during operation. Improper knowledge of the watercraft being operated can result in hazardous user error.

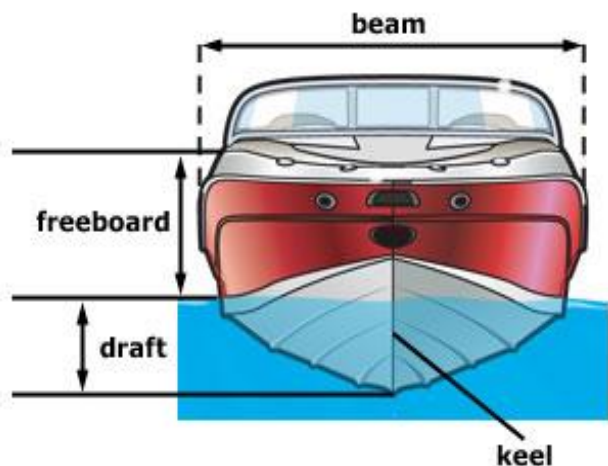


Boats come in many shapes and styles, but the names of the parts remain the same. Below is a visual representation and explanation of the vessel related parts that every boater needs to know!

**Beam:** Width of boat

**Draft:** Depth of water needed to float the vessel

**Keel:** Main centerline (backbone) of a vessel or the extension of hull that increases stability in the water



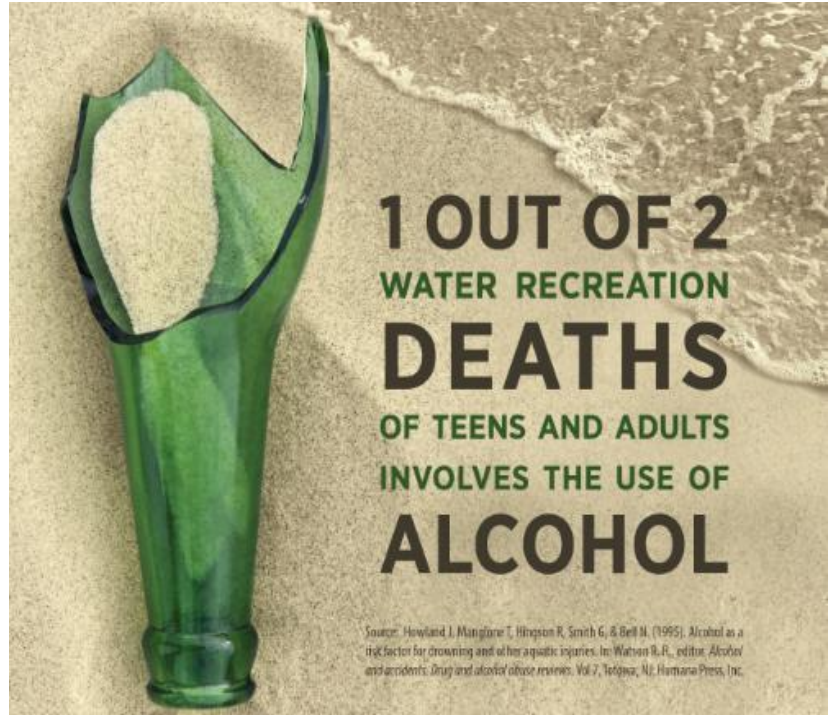
Not only will knowing this terminology prevent you from looking like a landlubber (a nautical newbie), but it could also save your life!



# BOATING SAFETY

## What to AVOID for Maximum Safety:

- ❖ Stay away from propeller when the engine is running and make sure it remains off if occupants are in the water near the boat.
- ❖ Keep off the standing points on the bow and stern when the boat is in motion; a bump could send those standing there flying off the boat.
- ❖ Only walk across the gunwale when it is safe to do so, i.e. at slow speeds and with minimum chop.
- ❖ Drinking alcohol! Here at Freedom Boat Club we appreciate a sober skipper.



## Safety Features on our Boats

Picture it. A perfect day on the water. Clear skies. Warm sunshine. A slight breeze. Only a few other boaters out to share the sparkling waterways. Aside from a mechanical breakdown or an empty gas tank, what could possibly impede such a glorious day?

Unfortunately, a lot. While the ocean is a beautiful place, it can be unpredictable and unforgiving. Fortunately, Freedom Boat Club provides our members with all the necessary safety features needed to be prepared for such an event.

All boats have U.S. Coast Guard required equipment including life jackets, a fire extinguisher, sound equipment, and flares. Boats are checked for this equipment by both our dock staff and the member prior to departure. Children should always have a life jacket on from before they get on the dock to when they are stepping off the dock after the trip.

The most important safety feature is not a feature at all, it's the skipper! Just like cars, for the safest trip possible the driver has to be sober. Not only is it a good idea, it's the law.

# BOATING SAFETY

## Types of Life Jackets

There are five different types of personal flotation devices, each designed to accommodate different boating experiences:

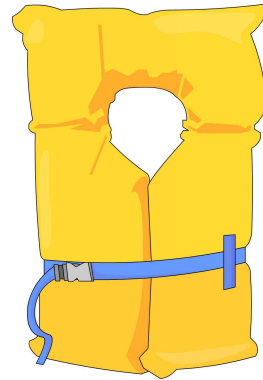
### **Type I. Wearable Offshore Life Jackets**

These life jackets are created to last in rough waters where users might have to wait awhile for rescue. They provide the most buoyancy and will turn most unconscious persons face up in the water.



### **Type II. Wearable Near-Shore Vests**

These are ideal for calm waters where rescuers are not far away. Type II may not turn some unconscious persons face up in the water.



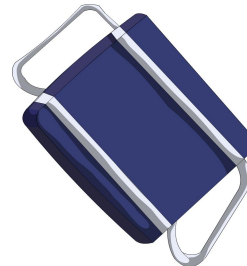
### **Type III. Wearable Flotation Aids**

These are a secure, comfortable option for calm waters within quick-rescue range. They are not recommended for rough waters because they may not turn most unconscious persons face up in the water.



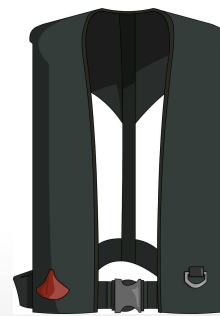
### **Type IV. Throwable Devices**

These should be kept on board in case someone goes overboard without a life jacket. It should not be the only PFD available when traversing rough waters.



### **Type V. Special-Use Devices**

These are designed for specific activities such as water-skiing and windsurfing. They provide mobility without compromising one's safety.



# BOATING SAFETY

## Road Rules on the Water



As we all know, traffic in Jacksonville can be the worst. Crowded roads filled with road-raging drivers can be a dangerous time for any driver. The same can hold true on the water. There can be ample boat traffic and if only one boat is not following the rules, it can be dangerous for everyone around.

Just like driving in the streets, there are boating rules that must be followed in order to avoid collisions, running aground and keeping some sort civility on the water. While it's not as defined as lines on a road, it's easy to learn when out on the water.

The first rule boaters are going to encounter when leaving the dock is the 'no wake' zone, which looks like the image to the right.



The 'no wake' zone is an area where your boat is not allowed to be fast enough to generate wake, maximum 5 MPH. You must continue this speed until the sign is passed.



# BOATING SAFETY

## Road Rules on the Water

After leaving the dock, the next and most important rule to follow is to stay in your channel. Failure to maintain proper channel alignment is one of the primary reasons boaters run aground. Proper channel alignment requires you to watch the upcoming channel markers lined up with the marker just passed.

Imagine for a moment and think of a channel as a road. You have red and green channel markers that set the road. There is a white line connecting those markers, just like the white lines that mark the side of the road. Now place an imaginary yellow line down the middle of the red and green channel markers to split the channel. It will look like the image below.



Any vessel overtaking another vessel must keep out the way of the vessel being overtaken. The former is the give-way vessel and the latter is the stand-on vessel. This rule applies even if the overtaking vessel is propelled by wind, oars, or rubber band paddlewheel.

# BOATING SAFETY

## What to do in Case of Emergencies

Anything can happen out on the water and fortunately we give all of our members the proper safety equipment to handle most situations. Just having the safety equipment is not enough; acting calmly, timely and appropriately can mean the difference between life and death.

**Stranded** - All of our boats come with GPS location trackers and radios as well as flares and a horn. When stranded, radio back to us here at Freedom and we will come rescue you and take care of the derelict vessel. If for some reason the radio is not working and there is no cell phone reception, scan the area for any other boats and if they are within earshot, honk the horn and wave your arms to try to get their attention. If that does not work, bring out the flares and shoot them up in the air, but not straight up as it does come down. Most importantly, don't panic!



**Sinking** - If your boat is starting to sink, all occupants should wear life jackets. Hail the Coast Guard on VHF Channel 16, providing your location, the number of souls aboard and the nature of your distress. Wait 10 seconds for a reply before repeating. Try to locate the leak and plug it up to slow down the descent while waiting for help to arrive. If the boat has sunk and you are near land try to swim to shore, if not, stay at that location until help arrives. Most importantly, don't panic!

**Capsizing** - Should your boat start to capsize, all occupants should wear life jackets if they are not already. Take a headcount to make sure everyone is out of the capsized boat and directly in the vicinity. Stay with the boat, not only will a capsized boat usually float, but the capsized vessel is easier to spot than people floating in the water. If the boat remains afloat, try to climb back onto it to preserve body heat out of the water and get the attention of any near by boaters. Most importantly, don't panic!



**Severe Weather** - In the case of severe weather, your first step should always be to get to land. If you are on open water and can't get to land, *Boating Magazine* suggests putting on your life jacket and finding a protected area out of the wind to drop anchor. Remove all metal jewelry. Stay away from metal objects, electrical outlets and any appliances. If your boat has a cabin, go inside. Always check weather conditions before boating. If you hear it, fear it, and if you see it, flee it. Most importantly, don't panic!



# BOATING SAFETY

## Boating Etiquette Adds to Safety

For new boaters, it is vital to learn the fundamentals of safely operating a boat, from launching and docking to navigating and anchoring. It's also important to learn the unique culture and etiquette of boating. Good manners and common sense can go a long way to ensure you have an enjoyable experience on the water.

Over the busiest boat days, I have been appalled at the lack of boating etiquette, respect, and consideration from some boaters. For starters, if you're going to an island and expect to raft up or anchor next other boaters, be considerate.

### Some Tips:

- ❖ Have your fenders out and at the proper length
- ❖ You'll want lines ready to throw at both the bow and stern
- ❖ Make sure your bow anchor and stern anchor are adequate to hold your boat to keep it from crashing into others
- ❖ If people are anchored at a beach, and you come up to park next to them, make special note where their anchors are placed. Remember, they were there first and their boats are already anchored.
- ❖ Pay close attention to the current, whether it is going in or out, and how that may cause anchored boats to eventually swing on their ropes.

According to the rules of boating, you should protect a 360-degree courtesy buffer from an anchored boat. If you anchor too close, you are putting multiple boats at risk, and could be held responsible for damages. The person who anchored first has the right of way. This should all be common sense. Unfortunately, it is not.

# BOATING TIPS

## What to Bring on the Water

Whenever I prepare for a boat outing my friend, Aaron, will ask, “What are you expecting, an apocalypse?” I always remind him that as a woman boater, I want to be prepared for any and all circumstances. Of course, there is no reason a man shouldn’t be prepared. I can’t tell you how many times someone on my boat has asked me for something and I had it on board.

Here is my list of items I consider a must for every boat outing:

## Essentials

- ❖ Basic First-Aid Kit
- ❖ Rain Poncho/Foul Weather Gear
- ❖ Water Shoes
- ❖ Beach Towels
- ❖ Cell Phone/Charger Cord
- ❖ Sunscreen
- ❖ Waterproof Strobe/Flashlight & Batteries
- ❖ Handheld Compass
- ❖ Bottled Water
- ❖ Medications
- ❖ Extra Drain Plug
- ❖ West Marine Tool Kit
- ❖ Hand-held Marine Radio & Extra Batteries (12v Plug)

## Good to Have

- ❖ Pocket Knife/Pliers Combo
- ❖ Waterproof Bag
- ❖ UV Blocking Sunglasses
- ❖ Binoculars
- ❖ Long-Sleeve Shirt/Sweatshirt
- ❖ Wego Battery Charger
- ❖ Insect Repellent
- ❖ Paper Clips/Bag Ties
- ❖ Ziplock Bags (So Many Uses)
- ❖ Davis Instruments, Multi-Key

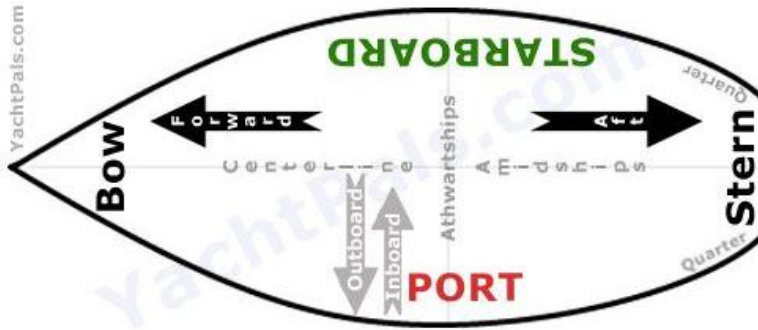




# BOATING TIPS

## Nautical Lingo

Like most industries, boating has a language all of its own. Many of the terms are technical and unique to the marine industry.



You should learn these basic boating terms so that you can speak to your captain or be a knowledgeable first mate. And if you have any communications with dock staff or U.S. Coast Guard, it's important to know some of these terms:

- ❖ **Bow:** Refers to the front end of a boat
- ❖ **Stern:** Refers to the back of a boat
- ❖ **Forward:** When you are moving toward the bow
- ❖ **Aft:** When you are moving toward the stern
- ❖ **Underway:** When a boat is moving, either by motor or wind
- ❖ **Ahead:** Refers to a boat moving in a forward direction
- ❖ **Astern:** Refers to a boat moving in a backward position
- ❖ **Port:** Standing at the stern and looking forward, “port” refers to the left side of the boat. Helpful hint: Left and port each have four letters
- ❖ **Starboard:** Standing at the stern and looking forward, “starboard” refers to the right side of the boat.
- ❖ **Port Bow:** Refers to the front left of a boat
- ❖ **Starboard Bow:** Refers to the front right of a boat
- ❖ **Getting on a plane:** When you power a boat fast enough for the bow to rise on top of the water, it allows the vessel to attain significantly increased speeds and requires less power
- ❖ **Transom:** The transom is the transverse, vertical section that makes up the rear, or stern of a boat, directly opposite the bow. A vessel's name is commonly displayed on its transom
- ❖ **Amidship:** The central part of a boating vessel
- ❖ **Topside:** Moving from a lower deck of a boat to an upper deck



# BOATING TIPS

## The Proper Way to Beach a Boat

I love bringing my boat to the beach and staying for an extended time, but I don't want to be left high and dry because of an anchoring error or some other mistake.

It is important to know the dos and don'ts of beaching your boat so you are able to enjoy the day without worrying about making adjustments. You also want to be able to get on and off the boat with ease and be able to leave when you want to. (Hint: not getting beached).

Click on the link below for a great article from Boat U.S. that provides an easy technique for beaching small and medium-sized powerboats (as long as your crew is engaged!).

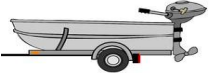
<http://www.boatus.com/magazine/2014/august/beaching-your-boat.asp>



# BOATING TIPS



## Hassles & Aggravation of Boat Ramps



While boating is all about fun, recreation and enjoying nature, getting your boat off a trailer and into the water has, now more than ever, become more a matter of survival. While various boat ramps are in a state of decay, so are the attitudes and manners of many boaters.

Two of my close boating friends, Curt and Mandy, debated skipping Fourth of July fireworks this year because of the unplanned fireworks that occurred at the ramps last year. In addition to the long wait to launch their boat, there were rude and inconsiderate boaters.

While boating and alcohol often go hand-in-hand, so does alcohol and rudeness – as well as potential danger. I know boaters who will not go to the Palm Valley ramp on Saturdays because it is so crowded and the parking is so bad. In addition, the aftereffects of last year's hurricane are still obvious with damaged and destroyed ramps. Add alcohol and impatience and you might prefer spending a day by the pool.

As a lifelong boater, I remain a passionate advocate for boat ownership. However, when I see the reality of what has been happening at boat ramps, and parking lots, across the northeast Florida area it makes me grateful to be a part of Freedom Boat Club.



Let's keep boating fun and safe – and be considerate of other at all times, even before you get your boat in the water so you don't end up like this guy.

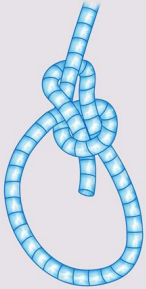
# BOATING TIPS

## Knots to Know

There are some important skills that every boat owner should possess, including which knot to use, and how to properly tie it. This is vital in tight situations, or in non-conventional docking circumstances. Ropes, tie-offs, cleats, tie-piling and towing all require specific knowledge about knots. Remember: “Right over left, left over right, makes a knot tidy, and tight.”

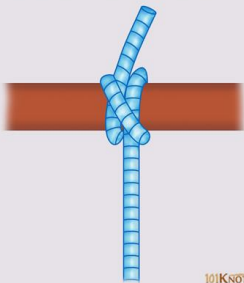
**Here is my list of the top 5 knots to master:**

Bowline Knot



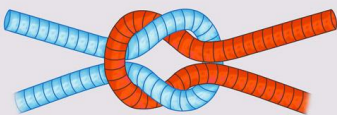
**Bowline:** this knot is often referred to as “the king of knots” because of its importance and variety of uses on a boat. This versatile knot creates a fixed loop on the end of the rope that can be used for hitching, mooring, or lifting.

Clove Hitch



**Clove Hitch:** this is a simple, all-purpose knot that is quick and easy to tie. It is an ideal means of securing fenders to a rail. When using this knot, be cautious because it is not very secure on its own.

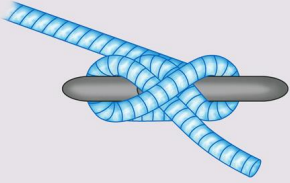
Square (Reef) Knot



**Square knot (reef knot):** this is a simple, quick knot used to tie two ends of a single line to bind around non-critical objects. It should not be trusted to join two ropes together effectively, like a bowline can do. Be sure to use two ropes with the exact diameter when using this knot.

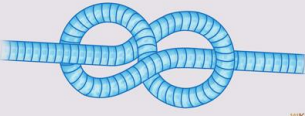
# BOATING TIPS

**Cleat Hitch**



**Cleat Hitch:** this is one of the most widely utilized knots that boaters use to tie watercraft to a static dock, floating dock, or boat lift. A proper cleat hitch is easy to tie and very effective. It can be released under load without someone taking a chance of losing a finger in the process.

**Figure 8 Knot**



**Figure-Eight Knot (stopper knot):** this knot is a firm, non-slip loop at the end of the line. The figure eight is good for making a “stopper” knot in a single line in order to prevent the line from slipping, even if the figure eight comes up tightly on the block, it doesn’t bind.

By mastering new skills, or learning new ways of performing common tasks, even veteran boaters can experience a renewed sense of accomplishment.

As a lifelong boater, I have always enjoyed learning new skills and sharing those with others. There is nothing like hands-on, at the helm, learning. However, new technology offers new possibilities. I have been amazed by the helpful, detailed instruction you can find on YouTube.

One of the benefits of instructional videos, you can stop them, slow them down, and repeat them over and over.

Need some guidance for tying knots? Here’s a link to a video that beginners might find useful:

*Beginner’s Guide to Five Basic Boating Knots:*

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hrampH94LY8>

# BOATING TIPS

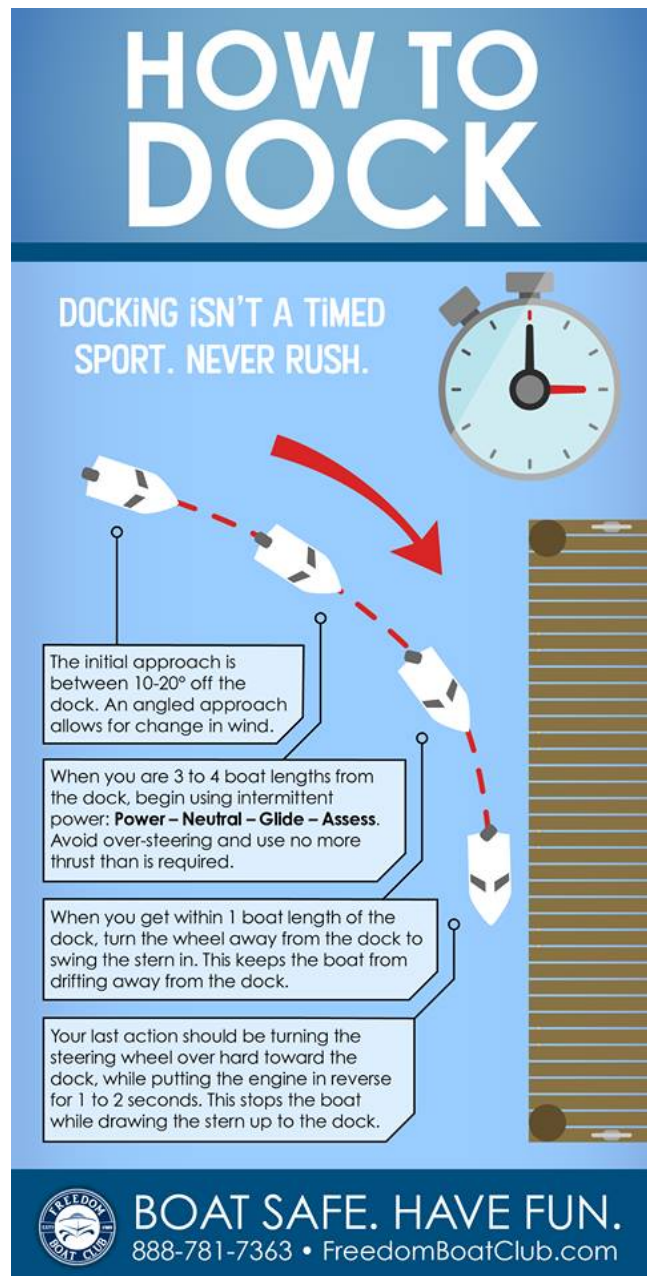
## How to Dock Like a Pro

They are the three little words that can cause both fear and anxiety for new boaters. Docking the boat. I often hear from first-time boaters who dread the thought of bringing a boat into the dock. There are members of Freedom Boat Club who will not take a boat to Whitey's Fish Camp for fear of having a docking mishap.

At one time or another, we have all been there. Docking can be tricky, as wind, waves, or current come into play. Don't let your fear take away the joy of boating. You can even practice with an online docking simulation at [www.BoatUS.com/dockit](http://www.BoatUS.com/dockit).

The four keys that are mentioned in the video are the most important. The most common mistake I see people make is coming in too "hot". My simple advice: Slow down! Take your time. Simply "bump" your boat in and out of neutral and make sure your crew knows their responsibilities.

Check out my Youtube video to learn how to properly toss a line: <https://youtu.be/iRsFu1ZjKSU>



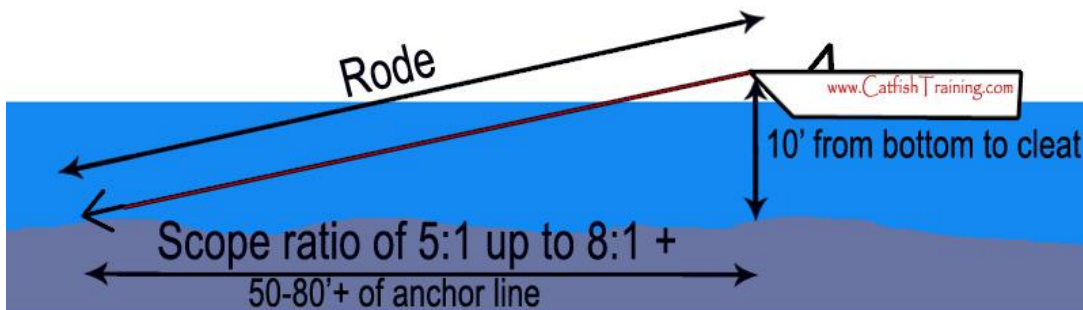


# BOATING TIPS

## Anchor Management

Anchoring your boat and enjoying a day of quiet rest can be almost as fun as cruising. While it is enjoyable to simply jump off the boat and swim around it (swinging on the hook as we call it), it is also fun to anchor out and raft up with other boaters.

To get the most out of the experience safely, it's important to know how to properly set an anchor. Proper anchoring helps you control your boat in bad weather and keeps your boat secure if the engine quits. Anchors are made to burrow into the bottom. If an anchor is set right, the more your boat pulls, the harder the anchor digs into the bottom.



Of course, to talk about anchoring you need to know the lingo. The **anchor road** is the line, which is the nautical term for rope that attaches the anchor to the boat. **Scope** is the term for the amount of road you have when you're actually anchoring. An anchor road is made up of a long length of line. I recommend nylon. It's strong, it stretches under load, and it lasts a long time. You should have several feet of chain, a couple of shackles to fasten the line, the chain, and the anchor all together.

How do you know how much road you need? It's simple math. A good rule of thumb is to have an anchor road equal to five to eight times the depth of the water. Use a 5-to-1 scope for daytime anchoring, and an 8-to-1 scope when anchoring at night.



# What Type of Boat Are You?

Are you determined and decisive like a center console? Maybe you cut through the water with acuity like a PWC. Check out which boat might fit your needs best.

## Which type of water will you be in?



Rough Water



Calm Water

## What type of hull do you need?

*Hulls with a deeper V ride smoother but need more power.*



Deep V



Modified V



Low Deadrise

*Storage at marinas is costly; yet, trailers require maintenance.*

## Which will provide you the most freedom?



Dry Stack



Dock



Trailer

## Who is going to join you?

*Make sure everyone aboard is safe and comfortable!*



Lone Sailor



Up to 5 People



Up to 10 People



Lone Sailor



Up to 5 People



Up to 10 People

*From visiting the Riverside Arts Market, to jumping that wave, to catching your trophy red, there are plenty of things to do on the water to satisfy your heart and soul.*



Fishing



Water Sports



Cruising



Flats/Skiff

You're sure to have an exciting adventure fishing for red drum, trout and other Jacksonville-native fish in a Skiff or Flats boat!



Deck with Tower

Jump the wake with a Deck Boat equipped with board tower and wake board racks. It's our fastest and biggest engine, so hang on!



Bay Boat

Coast alongside dolphins in this pleasure boat, or get serious about fishing. It's not just a crowd pleaser; it loves a crowd.



Inshore Center Console

Enjoy a smooth-riding center console fishing boat, built to give you comfort while casting out.



Bow Rider

Grab 8 of your friends and explore everything the water has to offer. From fishing, to tubing to cruising all in the same day, this boat is truly multipurpose.



Inshore Dual Console

Need a little extra space but still want all the luxuries of a bow rider? Hop on an inshore dual console and soak up the sun!



Offshore Center Console

Play with the big fish in the Atlantic Ocean as you search for fresh Grouper, Snapper, Amberjack, Tarpon, Mackerel or Shark!



Full Windshield Deck

Float your way to the next football game or cruise to your favorite restaurant on this 10 passenger full windshield deck boat.



10 Person Deck Boat

Grab your skis and friends and head for the water on this Deck Boat tailored for comfort and a great time.

**Why buy one boat, when you can have them all...  
at much more affordable price?**

**[www.FreedomBoatClub.com](http://www.FreedomBoatClub.com)**



# LIFE ON THE WATER

## Pets on the Water



One of the great joys of boating is sharing the experience with friends. This holds true even if your friend walks on four legs. Our members are welcome to bring their pets on board, but that means taking some extra precautions. We want to be sure your dog's Yappy Hour is also Happy Hour.

For starters, your dog should have a life vest just like your kids. Find one that fits well, is comfortable, and allows your dog to swim easily. That way, if your dog falls overboard, he'll be able to float, just remember there is a current. Always make sure you have water on board, because you're out in the sun, and just like us, dogs need to stay hydrated. Always bring your dog down to the dock with a leash so you can get him safely on board. Sometimes dogs can get a little wobbly on a dock.

You should also consider buying a "Paws on Board" ladder to make it easy for your dog to get on board and off again, or make sure you have a sturdy handle on the vest, so you can lift him up and down. Make sure you have shade for your dog. Like people, they get hot! We love to have our pets on the water and we love for you to bring them.

We just want you, like everything else, to be safe with them.

Share your adventures with [Freedom Boat Club Dock Dogs](#), where you can check out all of our water-loving canines!



# LIFE ON THE WATER

## Teach Your Kids to Boat

It is one of those cringe-inducing words that, upon hearing, almost always invokes a negative reaction. Discipline. Not all discipline is equal. In fact, there are certain disciplines that, taught to your children, are more a source of celebration than complaint.



I can think of a one very close to home: Learning to operate a boat. Unlike many outdoor activities that take a wear and tear on the body, boating is a sport that can be enjoyed well into the retirement years. Teaching children the fundamental skills of operating a boat is something they can use for a lifetime. I know first-hand.

From earliest childhood, my parents taught me the various disciplines of operating a boat, from launching and maneuvering in tight quarters, to anchoring and tying off at the dock. I enjoyed every moment of it. And I will be forever grateful.

If you, like me, have benefited from having experienced boaters share their love and knowledge of the sport with you, I encourage you not to keep it to yourself.

For young people, particularly a millennial generation that seems to spend a significant amount of time indoors, attached to tiny electronic devices, mastering the various skills of boating can be life changing.





# LIFE ON THE WATER

## Top 10 Boating Songs

What is there not to love about boating? The wide-open spaces, fresh spray, sundown cruises, skiing, tubing, and relaxation with family and friends.

I not only loving boat, I love talking about boating, even listening to songs about boating. Here is my list of 10 my all-time favorite boating-related songs:



<https://youtu.be/uI7Ghu1FpnQ>



<https://youtu.be/g8MYsii4DZY>



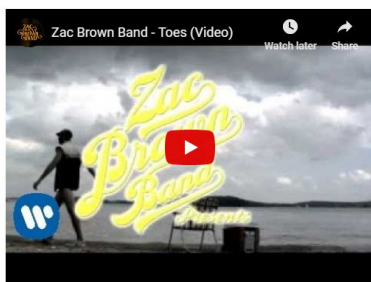
<https://youtu.be/VoOonzkESTI>



<https://youtu.be/o9dQmeBNgU>



[https://youtu.be/e5MAg\\_yWsq8](https://youtu.be/e5MAg_yWsq8)



<https://youtu.be/lB8Nkn3Xjes>



<https://youtu.be/7khQNR7s1Ho>



<https://youtu.be/hpM8FjO4Vko>



<https://youtu.be/oX9esXzzO7w>



<https://youtu.be/vDKqz5yD5-I>

# LIFE ON THE WATER

## Water Toys

When it comes to having fun in the sun on the water, it is important to come prepared. Now I know what you're thinking, "Lisa, we already brought and double checked our safety gear! What else do we need to bring?" and I say "Well what about the fun stuff?!"

Being safe on the water is the first step to having a good time, but the second step is actually having a good time!

### **My No. 1: The Maui Mat**

It is the best babysitter you're ever going to have. Kids love it, adults love it. It's so much fun, people find it hard to resist.

<http://www.maui-matts.com/>



### **No. 3: Intex Lounger**

This is perfect to be in the water without being in the water. On those sunny days when the water is still cold, you can still lounge on this and not have the water touch you. Attach a line to the handle, and stay connected to the boat, and you don't have to worry about current taking you away.

[http://www.splashsupercenter.com/Intex-Floating-Recliner-Lounge\\_3](http://www.splashsupercenter.com/Intex-Floating-Recliner-Lounge_3)



**No. 2: The Bum Float.** Forget using your upside-down lifejacket to stay afloat. This is the solution. With Bum Float, you can literally stand up in the water. This allows you to remain comfortably upright and float all over the place effortlessly.

<http://bumfloat.myshopify.com/>



# LIFE ON THE WATER

Oftentimes, when I tell people about Freedom Boat Club they say that it sounds too good to be true. I get it. But there are many reasons why Freedom Boat Club, the nation's oldest and largest boating club, continues to grow at a steady, rapid rate. We take the hassles out of boating, maintain a large fleet of late-model boats, and provide superior service. As a result, our retention rate is a remarkable 93 percent. Not all boat clubs are the same. A little research goes a long way. Before you join a club, be sure to ask many questions.

Here are some good ones to start with:

## **The History:**

How old is the club?

Where was it started?

## **The Location:**

How many locations do you have?

Can I visit all locations?

## **The Fleet:**

How many boats are in the fleet?

How old is the fleet?

What types of boats are in your fleet?

## **The Access:**

How can I get a boat when I want it?

Is there a limit on my reservations?

Are you open 365 days a year?

## **The Cost:**

What are the membership plans and options?

Once I join, can you raise my monthly dues?





# LIFE ON THE WATER

## Woman to Women, Take the Helm!



More women than ever are learning to embrace the boating lifestyle. This brings me great joy. Whether at the helm, or as a first mate or deckhand, women are learning how to enjoy the unique benefits of boating.

Here are some tips I have compiled, specifically for women, to get the most out of the boating experience.

1. Get out on the water sooner rather than later. There is no better time to start learning than now. Take a boating safety course to familiarize yourself with the local boating laws and basic boat-handling procedures.
2. Practice. Practice. And more practice.
3. Take turns at the helm. The more time you get at the helm, the more comfortable you will become.
4. Call your girlfriends and practice together. This reduces the pressure and creates a spirit of teamwork. You might even learn a new way to do something by seeing how someone else does it.
5. Stay Current by looking for new ways to improve your skills. Read a boating book, subscribe to a popular boating magazine, learn how to tie knots, take advanced training courses.



# DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES?



It's not the trademark. Or the boat with the name on the back. Or the colorful logo featuring waves and an oversized anchor.

I am the Boatanista for one reason. It is in my DNA!

I was a boater before I could walk. When other kids were riding tricycles I was learning to ski. I could handle a trailer before I had a driver's license. But being a Boatanista is more a state of mind than a matter of experience or mastering a technical skill.

To me, the definition of being a Boatanista is a woman who has the desire and drive to not only get on board but to take the helm. Do you have what it takes to be a Boatanista? I am calling on my fellow sisters of the waterways to join me in my quest to encourage, inspire and promote boating for women. It is one of my greatest joys to see the happy look on women's faces when they discover how easy and fun it can be to take the helm.

As a passionate advocate for the boating, I am a member of the Captains Club, The Jacksonville Power Squadron, The Jacksonville Marine Association, and I serve on the City of Jacksonville's Boating Committee. Now, I'm looking for a few good women to join the ranks of Boatanista.