

Online Boating Resources

Navigation

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration www.noaa.gov

This site contains a lot of interesting and exciting information.

NOAA Office of Coast Survey <http://nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/>

- Free electronic charts and links to chart readers
- Coast Pilot

NOAA National Ocean Service <http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/>

- Tides (current and monthly) <http://tidesonline.noaa.gov/>

NOAA National Data Buoy Center <http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/>

- Interactive buoy information
- Publication: *Mariner's Weather Log* <http://www.vos.noaa.gov/mwl.shtml>

Chesapeake Bay Interpretive Buoy System <http://buoybay.noaa.gov/>

- Smart buoys providing real-time weather and water observations

Nautical Chart Users Manual

http://cgis.hbg.psu.edu/CHC/documents/Nav%20Chart%20Manual/Front_matter.PDF

The link takes you to the table of contents and preface (11 pages). Click on a table of contents entry to be taken to that page but the entire chapter will download. The entire PDF of the book will NOT download all at once.

Local Notice to Mariners (LNM) <http://navcen.uscg.gov/>

- Information of importance to navigation
- Provides updates to paper charts

Print on Demand Charts

Ocean Grafix <http://www.oceangrafix.com>

(mailing list provides notification of updates to charts)

Polar Navy <http://www.polarnavy.com/>

- Chartplotter and navigation software
- Available free for planning
- Paid version enables connection to GPS and licenses for up to five computers

OpenCPN <http://opencpn.org/drupal/>

- Open source chartplotter and navigation software
- Free

Marine Traffic <http://www.marinetraffic.com/ais/>

- Locate vessels based on location, name, port of call

Online Boating Resources

Weather

NOAA National Weather Service <http://www.weather.gov/>

NOAA National Weather Service: Marine Weather <http://www.weather.gov/om/marine/home.htm>

Beaufort Wind Scale <http://www.spc.noaa.gov/faq/tornado/beaufort.html>

Storm Pulse <http://www.stormpulse.com/>

Passage Weather <http://passageweather.com/>

Naval Oceanography Portal <http://www.usno.navy.mil/>

Space Station View of Hurricane Irene <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NiejvDFB5dI>

Lee Chesneau's Marine Weather <http://www.marineweatherbylee.com/>

Cruise Planning

Noonsite <http://www.noonsite.com/>

- Well-respected source of information for cruisers

Skipper Bob Guides <http://www.skipperbob.net/waterway.htm>

- Great loop, ICW, Great Lakes, Gulf Coast, Bahamas

Cruisers Net <http://cruisersnet.net/>

- "Cruisers helping cruisers"
- ICW, Northern Gulf, Bahamas

Active Captain (International) www.activecaptain.com

- Online marina reviews, port and harbor information
- Updated by cruisers
- Free to register

Chesapeake Bay Magazine www.chesapeakeboating.net

- Marina information
- Destination information
- Power line clearances (obtained from LNM)

Google Earth earth.google.com

- Downloadable application
- Works well alongside Active Captain
- Photos allow users to see a cruising area
- Navigational chart and real-time weather overlays

How a Boat Sails

KQED Series

<http://www.kqed.org/quest/television/the-physics-of-sailing>

Online Boating Resources

Fun Stuff

TV, Radio and video downloads

World of Boating Radio <http://www.clicktoboat.com/cms/cms.asp>

- Broadcasts on Sirius satellite radio, the internet and podcasts
- Broadcasts from Florida mainly but travels the country occasionally

Ocean Rescue TV <http://www.oceanrescue.tv/>

Latitudes and Attitudes (see below)

T2P TV <http://www.t2p.tv/>

- Racing TV

Yachting Magazine <http://www.yachtingmagazine.com/videos.jsp?bclid=1387524693>

- Instructional videos

The Sailing Channel <http://www.thesailingchannel.tv/>

- Sample sailing videos
- Full-length videos to purchase and download

Online Sailing Simulators (free)

Simple. Easy to understand how the wind, sails and rudder work together.

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/volvooceanrace/interactives/sailing/index.html>

Introduction to Sailing: Online Sailboat Racing Guide

<http://www.macgregor.net/sailing/SailGame.html>

- Virtual sail races with an introduction to sailing

Volvo Ocean Race simulator <http://www.volvooceanracegame.org/home.php>

- Interactive sail simulator that follows the Volvo Ocean Race course

Sailing Simulators to download (for purchase, free demo)

Virtual Sailor

<http://www.hangsim.com/vs/index.php>

- Ability to change cruising grounds and boats (i.e., sail, power, tugboats, subs).

Webcams

Annapolis Yacht Club

<http://www.annapolisyc.com/>

Annapolis City Dock

<http://www.annapolis.com/community/historic-annapolis-city-dock-web-cam/>

Panama Canal

<http://www.panacanal.com/eng/photo/camera-java.html>

Online Boating Resources

Sailing Associations

American Sailing Association (ASA) <http://www.asa.com/>

- Sailing schools that provide in-water training
- Schools located in the US and Caribbean

US Sailing <http://home.ussailing.org/>

- National governing body of sail racing
- Provides in-water sail courses similar to ASA

Cruising Associations

Seven Seas Cruising Association www.ssca.org

- Members include blue water cruisers and those planning to cruise
- Well worth the dues for the information, monthly bulletins and Seven Seas U
- Membership includes subscription to online version of Ocean Navigator magazine (see below)

Magazines

Latitudes and Attitudes www.seafaring.com

- Interactive magazine available online
- Instructional videos, TV show

Practical Sailor <http://www.practical-sailor.com/>

- “Consumer Reports” of boating
- Subscription now includes access to back issues

DIY Boating Magazine <http://www.diy-boat.com/>

- Print or online subscriptions

Good Old Boat <http://www.goodoldboat.com/>

- Practical information for the boat “of a certain age”

Southwinds <http://www.southwindssailing.com/>

- Southern boating and racing
- Free online

Caribbean Compass <http://www.caribbeancompass.com/>

- Caribbean sailing
- Free online

Sailing Anarchy http://www.sailinganarchy.com/index_page1.php

- The “shock jocks” of the sailboat racing world

Scuttlebutt <http://www.sailingscuttlebutt.com/>

- Racing news daily

Blue Water Sailing <http://www.bwsailing.com/>

- Open ocean (blue water) sailing, navigation, maintenance

Online Boating Resources

Ocean Navigator <http://www.oceannavigator.com>

- Free online subscription with SSCA membership

Small Craft Advisor <http://smallcraftadvisor.com/>

- Focuses on small boats

Miscellaneous

From the tug's point of view: "Let the big boat go first."

<http://www.soundingsonline.com/news/dispatches/532-july-8-2010/260412-let-the-big-boat-go-first>

Sailnet Sailing Community <http://www.sailnet.com/forums/>

- Sailing forum, chat room and online store
- Novice to experienced sailors

Cruisers and Sailing Forum <http://www.cruisersforum.com/>