





## Marine Board Hosting Meet and Greet Open Houses with Boaters

The Oregon State Marine Board invites recreational boaters and others interested in the agency’s work to gather and engage with staff in a city near you. To better understand the needs of boaters around the state, share resources available to boaters, and gather input on the agency’s direction, staff are hosting 10 statewide meetings in the month of October. Attendees can expect a laid-back atmosphere and the opportunity to have conversations with Marine Board program staff about any topics relating to recreational boating in Oregon. If you have questions or concerns about any of the following topics, then you are encouraged to attend one of the scheduled open houses:

- Boating safety and education
- Boating regulations and policies
- Boating access facilities
- Marine law enforcement
- Boat registration fees and the agency budget
- Outfitters and guides

Open Houses are scheduled from 5 pm to 7:30 pm for all locations except Klamath Falls, which will be held from 9:30 am to 12 pm. The timeframes are open for people to come and go as their schedules allow.

For information about the Marine Board, and the agency and its programs for recreational boaters, visit [Boat.Oregon.gov](http://Boat.Oregon.gov).

Roseburg	9/19/2022 5:00 PM	Umpqua Community College	Danry Lang Center Room 203 & 204 <a href="#">Map</a>	1140 Umpqua College Rd., Roseburg, OR 97470
Coos Bay	10/20/2022 5:00 PM	Southwestern Oregon Community College	Empire Hall Lakeview E <a href="#">Map</a>	1888 Newmark Ave., Coos Bay, OR 97420
Medford	10/24/2022 5:00 PM	Rogue River Community College Riverside Campus	Room HEC 225 <a href="#">Map</a>	117 S. Central Avenue, Medford, OR 97501

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### Leashes and Life Jackets

When stand up paddleboarding, wear a leash. Learn about the best leash to wear for the waterbody you plan to paddle. The water levels are going down, which means channel current can get stronger on area rivers. Wearing a life jacket and a quick-release leash will ensure you stay afloat if you fall in (and the board takes off) and a quick-release leash sets you loose from potential entrapment. Life jackets and a whistle are required equipment for SUPs and other nonmotorized boats.



### Boating safety tips just in time for fall

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Fall boating season has arrived, and with it come different types of risks that cold water and air temperatures bring.

Here are three boating safety tips from the BoatUS Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water just right for leaf peeping season.

**A float plan is needed** A float plan is as simple as telling a responsible person where you will be going and when you'll be back. With fewer other boats on the water (potential Good samaritans) after Labor Day, a float plan ensures rescuers will be notified if you ever fail to check back in after your outing. Additionally, leaving a note under your vehicle's windshield wiper at the launch ramp can help trigger an alarm.

**Got a way back into the boat?** Falls overboard may be ranked No. 5 on the 2021 U.S. Coast Guard's list of the "Top Five Primary Accident Types" with 273 accidents, but they also led the most number of deaths (170 fatal), as well as more fatalities than all the other four top accident types combined (No. 1 collision with vessel: 1,226 accidents, 31 fatal; No. 2 collision with fixed object: 508 accidents, 43 fatal; No. 3 flooding or swamping: 461 accidents, 55 fatal; No. 4 grounding: 308 accidents, 23 fatal).

Your boarding ladder should be functional and accessible as cold water can quickly sap strength. If your boat doesn't have a built in-ladder, a compact emergency ladder or even a looped line attached to a cleat, pre-rigged with foothold loops every few inches and hung over the transom, can substitute.

**For life jackets, camo styling hides a danger** Dark green, tan and black camo patterns are remarkable at doing exactly as designed: blending you into your surroundings. However, that's not a benefit if you happen to be floating in the water and rescuers are searching. If possible, make their job easier and wear a life jacket with high visibility. For smaller vessels and paddlers, leaf peeping season is also a really good time to secure the life jacket to your body – that includes using buckle snaps.

**About the BoatUS Foundation** The BoatUS Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water is a national leader promoting safe, clean and responsible boating. Funded primarily by donations from the more than 800,000 members of Boat Owners Association of The United States (BoatUS), the nonprofit provides innovative educational outreach directly to boaters and anglers with the aim of reducing accidents and fatalities, increasing stewardship of America's waterways and keeping boating safe for all. A range of safe and clean boating courses – including the nation's largest free online boating safety course – can be found at [BoatUS.org/Courses](https://www.boatus.org/Courses).

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### West Coast Giant Pumpkin Regatta

Just when you think you've seen everything, you realize you've been missing the West Coast Giant Pumpkin Regatta since 2004. This cherished local event returns to the Tualatin Commons every October with a series of races. The series is exactly what it sounds like, consisting of costumed racers piloting a gaggle of gigantic gourds through a watercourse on Tualatin Commons lake.

On dry land, a costume contest, face painting, pumpkin bowling, and pumpkin golf will keep the laughs coming at this free, family-friendly event. Located just 13 miles (21 km) southwest of downtown Portland, Tualatin is a great starting point for an autumn adventure.

The West Coast Giant Pumpkin Regatta weekend is happening October 15 & 16, 2022!



## 10 Sailing and Boating Superstitions

'Tis the season for spooky stories about ghosts and witches (and nautical-themed Halloween costumes). In boating, meanwhile, every day of every month seems to have some sort of hair-raising tale associated with it. In fact, some boating superstitions date back centuries. No matter how many times a well-intentioned person tries to dismiss them, they continue to be espoused with near reverence.

Here are 10 of the most popular sailing and boating superstitions, along with how they came about.



### 10 Sailing Superstitions

1. No Redheads Allowed Onboard. Several cultures over the centuries believed redheads were unlucky, so this might be why sailors shunned them. Another possibility: Redheads were considered fiery personalities.
2. No Women Onboard. Womenfolk were considered too tempting to ancient mariners. Women also were believed to make the seas angry, resulting in dangerous voyages. Never mind the fact that boats were named after women, and that female figureheads adorned the bow of many a vessel...
3. Bananas are Banned. How can an inanimate object be a threat? A few explanations exist, but one in particular is factual. Bananas are favored hiding grounds for spiders, some of which have nasty (and occasionally deadly) bites. Centuries ago, ships transported bananas from tropical islands, with these stowaways unbeknownst to the sailors until they discovered them the hard way.
4. Always Step onto a Boat with Your Right Foot. Why the right? Your left foot brings bad luck for the journey ahead. This remains popular among plenty of old salts today.
5. No Whistling. Putting your lips together and blowing while you're standing on a boat will stir up the wind, and therefore the seas.

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6. Never Start a Voyage on a Friday. Some people point to the crucifixion of Jesus Christ as the origin for this superstition. On a related note, others say it originated with the adherence to no work on the Sabbath.
7. Never Change a Boat's Name. Never, ever, ever do this unless you want bad luck to follow you. There is hope, however, if you carefully follow each step of revered renaming rituals. Since Poseidon keeps record of every vessel name, the rituals purge it from his book and his memory. Start by removing all (and we do mean all) physical traces of the name. For the rest of the steps, read "Ceremony for Renaming Your Boat."
8. Don't Say "Goodbye" When Departing. Ancient mariners believed uttering certain words, including this, automatically doomed the voyage, keeping the ship from returning to shore. It's still a popular belief among captains and fishermen today. Consider it akin to saying "break a leg" to an actor rather than "good luck."
9. Cats are Good Omens. Finally, a superstition that emphasizes the positive. With apologies to all you dog lovers, cats reign supreme because they hunt rats. Rats invaded trading ships of old, attracted to the food cargo. They often carried disease, plus gnawed on ropes.
10. "Red Sky at Night, Sailor's Delight; Red Sky in Morning, Sailors Take Warning." The variations on this saying come down to meteorological predictions dating back to biblical times, too. When the sky is red at sunset, high pressure and stable air are approaching from the west. By contrast, at dawn, red indicates approaching rain, and possibly stormy seas.

  
<https://www.discoverboating.com/>

**Crew at the helm Better Boating**

Every captain needs backup. Ask the captain to teach you a few boating basics, so you can learn to crew at the helm when needed.

Learn how to start and stop the engine(s). Every boat is different, so practice your starting procedure. For example, in my boat, the ignition keys are in the cabin, but the start buttons are at the helm.

Learn about life jackets. Where are they, how do you put them on, and do they have whistles or other safety equipment?

Learn how to put the boat in gear. Knowing how to put the boat in forward and reverse will come in handy in an emergency.

Learn how to get back to the dock. Should something happen to the captain, what would you do? Getting back to the dock may be the fastest way to get help.

Learn how to pull into the slip. Docking doesn't need to be pretty. In an emergency, a little bump at 1 mph should do little or no damage.

Learn how to tie a line around a cleat. A simple figure eight will hold any boat.

Learn how to drop anchor. Dropping an anchor will most likely keep you safe and help calm things down if you can't drive the boat.

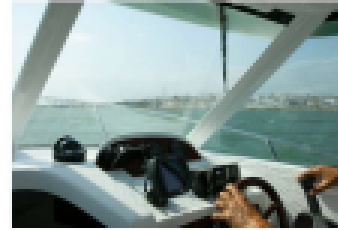
Learn how to use the radio. It's a fairly safe bet that the boat is equipped with GPS. Find out how to get your latitude and longitude positions from the GPS. With that, the U.S. Coast Guard, police and towing services can pinpoint your exact location. If latitude and longitude aren't displayed on your GPS, look for it on the small screen of your VHF radio. Most modern VHF radios display your location.

Learn how to use a fire extinguisher. Nothing is more dangerous than a fire aboard a boat. It's worth wasting a fire extinguisher or two to practice how to handle one.

Learn how to light a flare. And how to hold it safely.

Learn how to untie the boat. It's never good to tow your dock behind you.

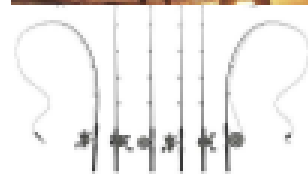
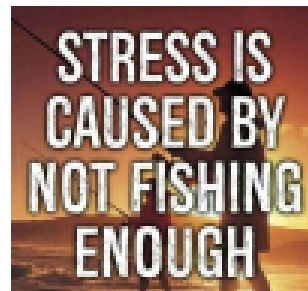
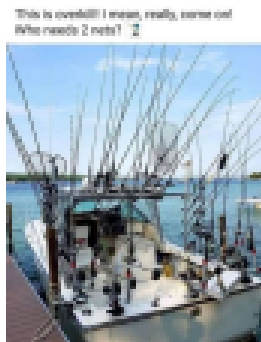
Learn how to disconnect the power cable from the shore power station. Water and electricity do not mix. —Marty Seconhouse



**Be a good crewmember:** Learn the essential boating skills you need to operate a boat safely and become a confident and valued crewmember.

**Enroll Now:** America's Boating Club and Coos Bay Power Squadron have courses and seminars that cover all aspects of boating. From the Basics to Celestial and Electronic Navigation there is a course or seminar to cover your needs.

Check the Coos Bay Squadron website [www.usps.org/coos/](http://www.usps.org/coos/) or call SEO Al at (541)888-6178 for details, and to enroll.



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Where's the fun in that? #BoatUS



"Is your smart fishing pole taking your boat out and taking the fun for you? I think technology is taking the fun out of your hobby."

#BoatUS

This fish must have gone to school. #BoatUS



"It's better than the fish, it says that the bottom of our boat needs school, and there's nothing we attached to our propeller that will stop it from."



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**MEETINGS**  
 Squadron / Board Meetings  
 are scheduled for **THIRD**  
 Saturday each month at 1300  
 (1:00 PM) Fisherman's Grotto  
 Charleston.  
 Covid-19 protocol  
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