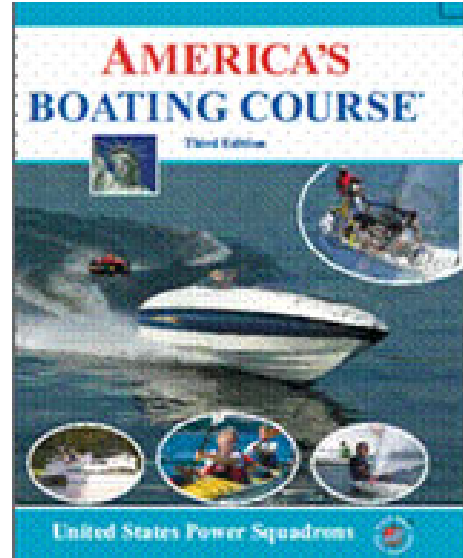


America's Boating Course Description

America's Boating Course - 3rd Edition can be taken as a classroom course or as an interactive, PC-based home study course for people whose schedule and obligations would make it difficult to attend a classroom course. The course utilizes guided instruction and numerous video and audio clips to provide basic boating safety information. Besides the basic boating safety topics, there is also an optional chapter on introduction to navigation, including charts and a digital charting program that's provided on a CD. A 244 page full-color manual and a course CD complete the course materials. After you sign up for the home study *America's Boating Course - 3rd Edition*, you will be contacted by a USPS member to offer assistance and to schedule a proctored final exam. Completion of this National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) approved course is accepted in most states as a requirement to getting a safety certificate, required in most states for operation of a water craft.



The boat and water safety course topics include:

- **Introduction to Boating:** types of power boats; sailboats; outboards; paddle boats; houseboats; different uses of boats; various power boating engines; jet drives; family boating basics.
- **Boating Law:** boat registration; boating regulation; hull identification number; required boat safety equipment; operating safely and reporting accidents; protecting the marine environment; Federal boat law; state boating laws; personal watercraft requirements.
- **Boat Safety Equipment:** personal flotation devices ("life jackets"); fire extinguishers; sound-producing devices; visual-distress signals; dock lines and rope; first aid kit; anchors and anchor lines; other boating safety equipment.
- **Safe Boating:** bow riding; alcohol and drug abuse; entering, loading, and trimming a boat; fueling portable and permanent tanks; steering with a tiller and a wheel; docking, undocking and mooring; knots; filing a float plan; checking equipment, fuel, weather and tides; using charts; choosing and using an anchor; safe PWC handling; general water safety.
- **Navigation:** the U.S. Aids to Navigation system; types of buoys and beacons; navigation rules (sometimes referred to as right-of-way rules); avoiding collisions; sound signals; PWC "tunnel vision."
- **Boating Problems:** hypothermia; boating accidents and rescues; man overboard recovery; capsizing; running aground; river hazards; strainers: emergency radio calls; engine problems; equipment failures; carbon monoxide (CO); other boating and PWC problems.
- **Trailing, Storing and Protecting Your Boat:** types of trailers; trailer brakes, lights, hitches, tires, and bearings; loading, balancing, and towing (and backing) a trailer; boat launching and retrieving; boat storage and theft protection; launching, retrieving and storing a PWC.
- **Hunting and Fishing, Water-skiing and River Boating:** carrying hunting gear and weapons in a boat; fishing from a boat; water-skiing safety guidelines and hand signals; water-skiing with a PWC; navigating rivers, and other boating tips.