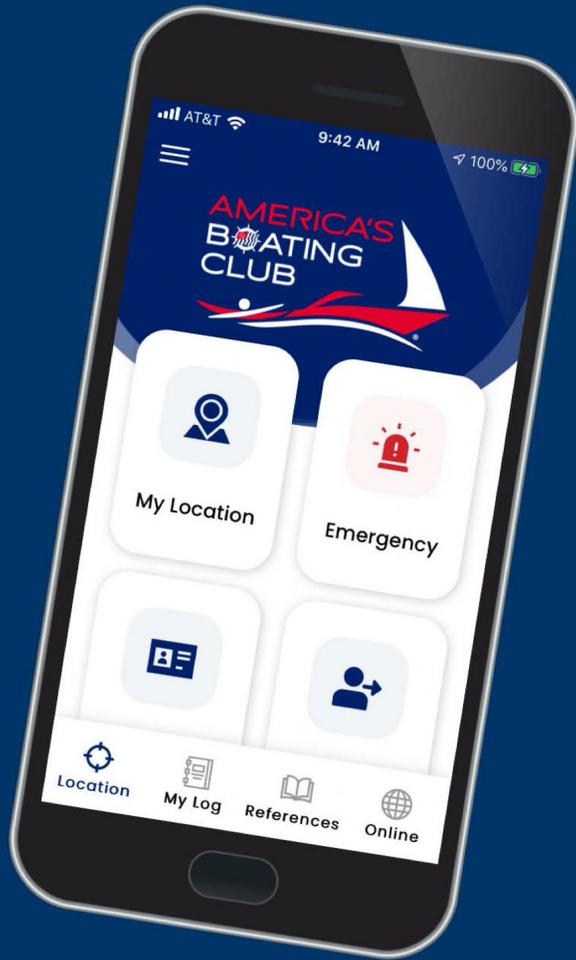


America's Boating Club FREE Mobile App



Your single boating information source
for a great day on the water.

Includes the VSC checklist, float plan templates, weather radar, help for on-board emergency situations, America's Boating Channel videos, and more.

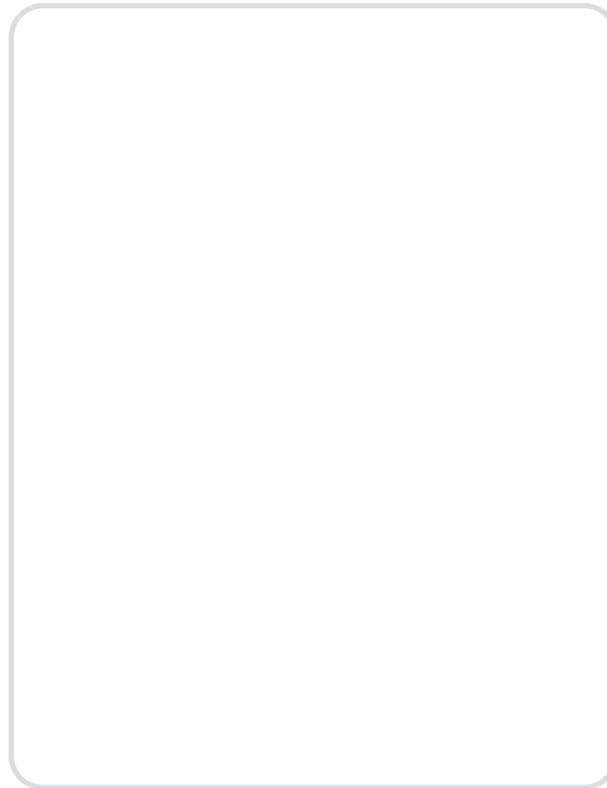


Download now at:

- AmericasBoatingClub.org
- Apple Store
- Google Play Store



Another successful VSC experience



AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB
For Boaters, By Boaters®

America's Boating Club® is a registered trademark
of United States Power Squadrons®
americasboatingclub.org

©United States Power Squadrons • 10/2022

Make Your Boat A Safe Boat



Your annual vessel safety check:

- Is a free service offered by America's Boating Club and the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary
- Is part of being a responsible boat operator
- Gives you peace of mind that your recreational boat has all required safety equipment

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB
UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®

What's Included in a Vessel Safety Check?

VSCs follow a standard checklist.

Your vessel safety examiner is a friendly, knowledgeable person who will check for all items on this list that apply to your boat:

1. Display of numbers
2. Registration/documentation
3. Personal flotation devices
4. Visual distress signals
5. Fire extinguishers
6. Ventilation
7. Backfire flame control
8. Sound-producing devices
9. Navigation lights
10. Pollution placard
11. MARPOL trash placard
12. Marine sanitation devices
13. Navigation rules
14. State and/or local requirements
15. Overall vessel condition (as applies):
 - Deck free of hazards/clean bilge
 - Electrical systems
 - Fuel systems
 - Galley - Heating systems
 - Engine cutoff switch (ECOS)

Your examiner may also cover “recommended and discussion items” with you that contribute to boating safety but are not required as part of your VSC. During that conversation, feel free to ask your examiner any question that can help you boat more safely.

Upon conclusion of your VSC:

- **If your boat passes**, you will receive a VSC decal to mount on your boat that will be visible to other boaters and maritime law enforcement personnel.
- **If your boat does not pass**, your examiner will let you know what it needs to pass.



Photo credits: America's Boating Channel
For more videos, see:
americasboatingchannel.com

Safety Tips

- **B**ring plenty to eat and drink – avoid dehydration. Don't consume alcoholic beverages while boating.
- **O**perate the boat in a safe and responsible manner.
- **A**lways wear a life jacket.
- **T**ake a boating safety course. Make sure your crew knows what to do in an emergency.
- **S**un, wind, and temperature can be more of a factor than many boaters think. Take precautions to avoid boat operator fatigue and protect everyone on board.
- **A**nnually, have a courtesy vessel safety check.
- **F**ile a float plan with someone who will take action if your return is overdue.
- **E**valuate conditions – weather, your vessel, and the readiness of everyone on board – as part of your go/no-go decision.
- **L**ocal knowledge increases safety. Plan your trip – be aware of tides, currents, etc.
- **Y**our lookout is key to situational awareness. When boating alone, that lookout is you.

America's Boating Channel VSC Video

Vessel safety checks are so important that one of our first safety videos was about VSCs. The video is available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G732v7EWn5U>

In just 5:15 minutes, you'll learn how:

- A VSC can improve your understanding of the purpose of marine safety equipment and how it applies to federal, state, and local regulations.
- Your experience with your vessel safety examiner can not only ensure your boat is safe from bow to stern but also add to your boating enjoyment.