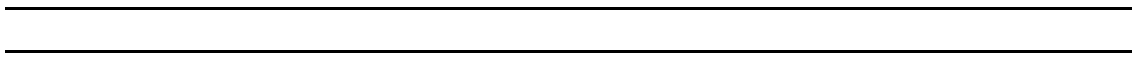




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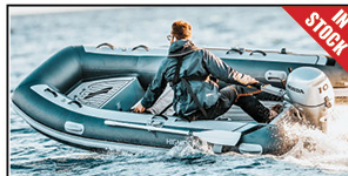
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Part 2: VHF Etiquette Expanded

The Log's previous article, featured in the Aug. 2-15 newspaper edition,

emphasized the significance of proper VHF radio etiquette on the water. Now, with expert help from Radio Instructor for the Coast Guard Auxiliary, Gordon West, we delve deeper into specific challenges boaters may encounter while using this crucial communication tool, such as proper radio handling to avoid accidental mic keys, using your radio on land versus what could be accomplished with your cell phone and appropriate vocabulary while on the radio. By understanding these issues and adhering to best practices, we can enhance safety and ensure a more enjoyable boating experience for all.



Proper VHF Radio Handling

Storing a marine VHF radio in your pocket is strongly discouraged. Not only does it hinder your ability to hear incoming calls clearly, but it also significantly reduces the radio's range due to the antenna's proximity to your body. Additionally, there's a risk of accidental transmission and potential skin burns from the device overheating.

[Read the article here](#)

How to Safely Use Your Boat Navigation Lights

Think of boat navigation lights like the eyes of your boat. They help other boats see you, and they help you see other boats. And just like car headlights, they're



crucial for safety on the water – especially when it's dark.

In this post, we will discuss how to use your boat navigation lights safely, why they're important, and some fundamental rules and safety tips to follow when [boating at night](#) – or during times of limited visibility.

The Importance of Using Navigation Lights for Boats

First, we must emphasize that each boat navigation light has a specific purpose and is not just for show! These illuminations are meant to help prevent collisions with other vessels when it's dark – or when the weather makes it hard to see much of anything.

Each is located in a strategic position and has a specific purpose:

- Boat navigation lights help prevent accidents with others on the water by alerting others of your location – and vice versa.
- They communicate your boat's direction, size, and intentions.

[Read the article here](#)

Ever Sunnier: The Proven Viability of Solar Boating

Solar boating is an interesting combination of powerboating and sailing, but I think it has more in common with sailing... when there's wind, at least. While it shares the comfort, lack of exertion, and simplicity of powerboating, a solar boat's tank is refueled for free by the gas dock in the sky every day. While power boaters generally appreciate higher speeds, solar boaters experience speeds similar to a sailboat. Accordingly, sailors are more accustomed to aligning departures and routes with the tides and winds, which is similarly advised for a solar sailor. Sailors like using free energy from nature in real-time, and they especially appreciate a lack of exhaust and combustion noise, which are also benefits of solar boats. That gives you a general idea of what solar boating is all about, except for one more key point: when it's dark, a solar boat is just an electric boat with range limitations, but as long as there is daylight—even if overcast and raining—you cannot be stranded with a solar boat.



[Read the article here](#)



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