

NEWS From BoatU.S.  
Boat Owners Association of The United States  
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BoatU.S. News Room at <http://www.BoatUS.com/news/releases.asp>

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## TOP TEN TIPS FROM BOATU.S. FOR GETTING THE MOST FROM A TANK OF GAS

ALEXANDRIA, VA, June 9, 2008 -- With boaters facing record high fuel prices this summer Boat Owners Association of The United States (BoatU.S.) has a few tips that could help stretch their fuel dollars:

1. **Leave the extra 'junk' home:** Don't load the boat up with weight you don't need. Do a little spring cleaning - unused equipment that has been collecting mildew in the bottom of lockers for years should be taken home.
2. **Water weight:** At 8.33 pounds per gallon, why keep the water in the tank topped off if you're only going out for the afternoon?
3. **Tune her up:** An engine tune-up is an excellent investment and should easily pay for itself over the summer.
4. **Tune your prop:** If your boat goes 30 mph with a like-new prop and only 27 mph with a prop that's dinged and out of pitch, that's a 10% loss in fuel economy, or, you're wasting one out of every ten gallons you put in your tank.
5. **Paint the boat's bottom:** When boating in salt or brackish waters a fouled bottom is like a dull knife. It takes a lot more fuel to push your boat through the water.
6. **Keep the boat in trim:** Using trim tabs or distributing weight evenly will help move your boat through the water with less effort - and less fuel.
7. **Go with the flow:** Consult tide tables and try to travel with the tide whenever possible.
8. **Install a fuel flow meter:** A fuel flow meter is like a heart monitor; when consumption starts to rise, it's an early warning that something is amiss. A fuel flow meter also allows you to select a comfortable cruising speed that optimizes the amount of fuel being consumed.
9. **Do the math:** If you don't want to spring for a fuel flow meter (about \$300), you can calculate your fuel mileage by dividing distance traveled by gallons at fill-up. Using your logbook, you can then approximate fuel flow using average speeds and time underway.
10. **Get a discount:** Many of the 885 BoatU.S. Cooperating Marinas around the country offer up to 10 cents off a gallon of gas. To get the discount all you have to do is to show your BoatU.S. membership card. If you aren't already a member, join online now for a special rate of \$19.00 by going to [BoatUS.com/membership](http://BoatUS.com/membership) or call 800-395-2628.

BoatU.S is the nation's leading advocate for recreational boaters providing its 650,000 members with a wide array of consumer services including a group-rate marine insurance program that insures nearly a quarter million boats; the largest fleet of more than 500 towing assistance vessels; discounts on fuel, slips, and repairs at over 885 Cooperating Marinas; boat financing; and a subscription to *BoatU.S. Magazine*, the most widely read boating publication in the U.S. For membership information visit <http://www.BoatUS.com> or call 800-395-2628.