

SAILING ACROSS RATHBUN LAKE

Whether power boating or sailing, Rathbun Lake, also known as Iowa's Ocean, has something to offer for all.

Power boaters on Rathbun Lake will enjoy the large main body of the lake on calm days for water skiing on its glass like surface. If the wind blows too hard, the Buck Creek, Honey Creek and South Fork arms of the lake offer protection from rough water.

Sail boaters can find plenty of room to maneuver on Rathbun Lake's nine-mile fetch of open water on the main body of the lake. The size of the lake combined with the prevailing winds make Rathbun Lake one of the best sailing lakes in Iowa.

Marinas at both ends of the lake – Buck Creek Marina on the east end and South Fork on the west – provide fuel mooring facilities and other supplies.

Day use fees are required for launching at Corps managed boat ramps. A daily fee of \$3.00 is charged to launch at ramps. In lieu of the daily permit an annual pass may be purchased for \$30.00. This pass is good at any Corps of Engineers facility nationwide.

Boaters should be aware that hazardous boating areas do occur on Rathbun Lake. For locations of the hazardous boating please refer to the lake map.

Remembering to follow safety rules while boating may be easier now at Rathbun Lake. Four of the main boat ramps have 4' x 8' billboards for posting safety messages, thanks to a Grassroots Grant and the collaborative effort of the Rathbun Lake Association, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the BoatUS Foundation.

The Rathbun Lake Association of Albia received a \$2,000 grant from the BoatUS Foundation for Boating Safety to construct and post the safety messages at four major boat ramps.

The full color signs will display the messages as an important reminder to the 90,000 boat ramp users that frequent the lake between April and October. The Corps of Engineers Park Rangers at Rathbun Lake present water safety demonstrations during the summer. Included are a scorched boat with a sign that reads, "This could happen to you. Each year about 800 people die in boating and swimming accidents."

The water safety demonstrations are at area Rathbun Lake boat ramps, campgrounds, and beaches. The billboards and demonstrations are helping spread the water safety message that everyone should wear a Personal Floatation Device.

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