

**Dear Cap'n Drew:** I have a question about what must be a universal problem in boat clubs and marinas - parking. For some unknown reason, otherwise nice and courteous people seem to park so rudely when they get to the boat club. Members have been parking in the fire lane, no parking zone and even in front of the boat ramp. We've tried leaving notes on the cars, making announcements at meetings and even putting notices in our club newsletter; but nothing seems to work. What can we do?

-Mike on the Buildings & Grounds Committee in GA

**Dear Mike:** You are right in saying that this problem exists everywhere. I have yet to find a marina or boat club where parking issues were not one of the biggest "pains in the rear-end" for management. In a boat club to which I once belonged, we had such a problem with people parking in the circle in front of the building, the club created the position of "Parking Nazi" (named after the character in "Seinfeld"). This guy was brutal, but EXCELLENT at the job. If you parked in the circle, he would chase you into the building and verbally assault you until you moved the car. Unfortunately, after the verbal assault, you felt so small that your feet could no longer reach the pedals on the car. I am also reminded of a letter from "Bottry," a very funny marina owner in Long Island (November 2003) who went so far as to pick up the repeat offender's car with a forklift and block it up high off the ground. As I said three years ago, "Bottry" is my hero!

**Dear Cap'n Drew:** A friend of mine loaned me money so that I could buy my boat. As agreed, I have been paying him back each month - with interest. The problem is that he constantly asks to use the boat. Almost every week he asks me to use it. One morning he showed up at my apartment, unannounced, with his new girlfriend and asked for the keys. When I told him that I had plans with friends from work to go out that day, he laid a guilt-trip on me until I relented. I had to call my friends from work and cancel the day - telling them that I was sick. When I borrowed the money from him, we never agreed that he was entitled to use the boat whenever he wanted to. Cap'n Drew, I'm getting sick of lending him my boat (or feel-



by Capt. Drew Brown

ing guilty when I don't). How should I handle it?  
-Fed-Up in Southern Florida

**Dear Fed-Up:** Your buddy is DEFINITELY taking advantage of the fact that he let you borrow the money to purchase the boat. It was nice of him to lend you the money, but if he wants a boat for himself, he should buy one. The problem with this is if he damages the boat, who is responsible to fix it AND what would happen with the loan? Next time he asks to borrow the boat, tell him that if you lend it to him, you will reduce the interest payment by a certain percent. If he is charging you interest for the money, then you should charge him interest for the use of the boat. If you are uncomfortable with doing this, employ the age-old strategy of simply "ducking" him.

**Dear Cap'n Drew:** My husband and I are close friends with another couple and often ask them out on our boat. They have been married for a long time and seem to bicker constantly. Normally we step away from them when they do this, but on the boat there's no where to go. We like them a lot, but these fight sessions can ruin a nice day on the boat. Any suggestions?

-Laurie from Point Richmond, CA

**Dear Laurie:** Find yourself a cheap bell - similar to a boxing bell - at a tag sale or online auction. Every time they start bickering, ring the bell and yell, "Round One." Then start announcing the fight like sportscasters. It may be received well, or they might get angry, but you certainly won't have to listen to them fight in front of you anymore.

**Dear Cap'n Drew:** I was at the New York Boat Show recently and thought of a funny top ten list that you ran a while back about "things that you won't hear brokers say at the boat-show." It was very funny. Do you have any "part II's" of that one?

- Danny in Ronkonkoma, NY

**Dear Danny:** I never came up with any more of those, but I'll work on it. I DO have another list of boat-show pick-up lines for you. Enjoy...


#### More Boat Show Pick-Up Lines

1. "Haven't I towed you in before?"
2. "Yes, that IS a GPS in my pocket and I AM happy to see you."
3. "Is someone cooking corndogs, or is that you?"
4. "Wanna see my swim-suit rash?"
5. "With that hard, squinty look, you should own a marina."
6. "I used to be the head barnacle scraper on Trump's yacht."
7. "Did I mention that I can introduce you to Mike Sciulla from Boat/US?"
8. "After a nice, candlelight dinner, we can go check my crab traps."
9. "But I HAVE to put my hands there to help you up on the boat."
10. "I'm known to have the most high-powered Johnson in aisle 3."

Cap'n Drew Brown has been boating for fifteen years with his wife, Meg (Windlass), and their three children, Fender and Cleat and Stay. He is the author of the boating humor book "What's A Hoy? A Guide to Modern Boating." Send questions via e-mail to [capn@capndrew.com](mailto:capn@capndrew.com) or visit his website at [www.capndrew.com](http://www.capndrew.com)



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