

Dear Cap'n Drew: I always find your column funny, but this time it inspired me to contribute the following things rarely said by sailors:

1. Let's put the big guy in the boatswain's chair.
2. Go ahead and stuff the chute in the bag any 'ol way.
3. I got into racing because it's inexpensive AND relaxing.
4. Is that a Chris Craft or Hatteras?
5. Bridge? No problem.
6. Who wants to go fishing? (my favorite)

Your fan and avid sailor,
Gene S. aboard the *Mast Transit*,
San Diego, CA



Ask Cap'n Drew by Capt. Drew Brown

Dear Cap'n Drew: Here's another to consider as far as things you almost never hear a sailor say... "Here, let me pay for the next round." Don't know about you, but the sailors at our club have got the deepest pockets and shortest arms of anyone I've ever met.
Greg J. in Livonia, MI

Dear Gene & Greg: Thanks for the funny letters. Last month I received additional shots on the power boaters by Kurt from Illinois and Alan from Florida. You guys have made it a tie. I welcome the input from any other readers who wish to take an anonymous poke at other boaters!

Dear Cap'n Drew: As you mentioned in *Long Island Boating World*, September 2006 edition, towing a water skier with only one person on board the towing vessel should always be strict policy regardless of any state's legislation.

In Canada, however, failure to keep watch on person towed or towing of person after dark is covered by section 249 and 250 of the **Criminal Code**.

Section 249 makes it an offense to operate motor vehicles, vessels or aircraft in a dangerous manner and provides for punishment upon conviction for these offenses.
Michel in Canada

Dear Michel: Thanks for the letter and thank you for sending me the actual Canadian criminal codes to confirm this. While I don't have enough room to quote both sections of the Canadian criminal code on the topic, I'll paraphrase: "If you are caught towing a water skier, surf-board or other like-object without a spotter or at night, the Canadian Government will club you until you are motionless and then shoot you at dawn without the benefit of a last meal or cigarette." I urge readers to exercise prudence while boating in the Great White North!

Dear Cap'n Drew: I have an outboard motor on a sailboat in salt water. The motor is located in a motor well and, therefore, I am unable to raise the motor when not in use. Each year I end up with my intake screen clogged with sea growth. Is there anything I can do to prevent this from happening since it is very difficult to remove the motor from the boat to try and clean?

Can I put a plastic bag over the motor when not being used? Any assistance you can give me will be greatly appreciated.
Dick Lewis

Dear Dick: I can't think of any reason why a plastic bag WOULDN'T work; however, I think that it would be rather difficult to get it on and off each time you go out. There is an invention which you should investigate. It is a boat lift that elevates your boat out of the water. It generally consists of two water tanks placed in your slip onto which you pull your boat. Once your boat is on top of the tanks, air is pumped into them, forcing the water out. The tanks take float, lifting your boat out of the water with them. This prevents sea growth, barnacles, and dirt lines.

The following letters are in response to the letter from Leslie in New Jersey who asked about boating timeshares.

Dear Cap'n Drew: Leslie in NJ wrote to you in July, 2006 asking about boat timeshares in NJ. Please share with her and other readers information about Freedom Boat Club. Freedom Boat Club has franchises all along the Atlantic coast and offers members the opportunity to boat without the hassles of boat ownership and upkeep. My family joined the Beverly, MA club this summer, and we have had a wonderful summer so far, using a variety of motor boats to explore the New England coast. I am not sure where in NJ Leslie lives, but there are franchises in NY and maybe soon to come in NJ, as well. The website is www.freedomboatclub.com.
Patty Shea, Marblehead, MA

Cap'n Drew: I'm afraid you have been kept in the dark too long. Carefree Boating is more than available, alive and kicking; it is thriving and currently in a network of more than 40 clubs from Boston to Austin. And, it has been around since 1989 - 17 years, adding multiple clubs annually.

Freedom Boat Club was founded in 1989 in Sarasota, FL with the concept of "Own the water... not the boat" and since then has expanded to include more than 19 clubs in Florida, 8 clubs on the Chesapeake Bay, 4 clubs on Long Island and other clubs from Boston, MA to Austin, TX. A member of the club pays an initiation fee and an annual dues and that covers everything except fuel. It also includes training, classroom, certification, on-the-water training and advanced training in navigation and cruise planning.

Members simply call to reserve a boat, go boating, and return to hand the keys to the dock master or dock hand and then go on their way. They never need to clean a boat, wax a boat, fix a problem or worry about storage, maintenance, repairs or winterization. They are members - like in a country club. Insurance, slip rentals, maintenance and repairs, winterization and storage costs are all included in membership fees. It is easily budgeted as a monthly expense or an annual expense, or pay it upfront and not have another payment to make except fuel. And there are lifetime membership plans as well. Just think of that, boat the rest of your life and pay only for the fuel. That's "Care Free!"
Leo Smith, Membership Director, carefreeboats.com

Dear Patty & Leo: Thanks for the info. Sounds like a very interesting concept. I imagine that members must curse at least 70% less than other boaters. I'm not sure which I would enjoy more: the boating, or watching somebody washing the boat after I use it!

Private message: Would the BCI member whom I spoke to at the Trooper event in Huntington send me an e-mail. We discussed boating and Greece. I lost your card. Thanks! -Cap'n Drew

Top Ten Reasons Why Boating is Better than Golf

1. Boaters don't have to walk through fields of infected ticks.
2. You don't have to ask to pass another boat.
3. No cable TV on golf carts.
4. Sand beaches versus sand bunkers.
5. Boaters don't have to dress like rejects from a Dickens' novel.
6. Try dancing in your underwear at a "kegger" in a golf club...
7. Bikinis.
8. Boaters don't "shush" each other.
9. We have "Gilligan's Island;" they have "The PGA Tour."
10. Boaters never lose their

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 or visit his website at www.capndrew.com