

# Nautical Trivia



by Ginny Hauff

1. Did you know that to prevent the mishap of having your line wrap around the prop is having a bow line that is no longer than your boat's overall length?
2. Did you know that sea smoke refers to the winter's cold air that blows off the land and over the seawater to form a steamy fog?
3. Did you know that the hitting and running from an unoccupied vessel could bring the offender, if apprehended, a \$1,000 fine or two years in prison?
4. Did you know that when trailering your boat south you should expect to gain one pound of tire pressure with each 10-degree increase in temperature?
5. Did you know that for every boat that sinks underway, four sink in their slips due to failures such as hose and/or packing leaks, thru-hull fitting and bilge pump failures?
6. Did you know that tide is a vertical movement and current is horizontal flow?
7. Did you know that after inflation of a life raft, the safety valves allow excess air pressure to escape?
8. Did you know that white buoys with yellow lettering reading No Bodily Contact refers to no swimming or water skiing?

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## How to Buy Your Best Boatlift

Many vessel owners sometimes buy a boatlift based upon price or cost alone. There are however, four simple rules a buyer can follow to help ensure the best decision in the long run!

**RULE 1:** Get your four or more agency construction permits now.

**WHY?** The lead time to submit applications and obtain permits is usually four or more months, without any conflict. Choose a professional, skilled and qualified marine construction expeditor to handle this work, as it is possible you may not even be allowed to have a lift for your vessel.

**RULE 2:** Purchase from an established industry leader.

**WHY? SERVICE...SERVICE...SERVICE!!** All boatlifts should come from credible, established industry leaders, working alongside skilled, licensed, insured and talented distributors, dealers and installers who are ready to serve your every need before, during and after the lift purchase, installation and operation processes are completed.

**RULE 3:** Choose the correct lift.

**WHY?** The lift choice should be a function of what is required for both this and your next vessel. Design specifications, including motor drive design, size, power, phys-

ical lift component sizes and finally warranty are the initial parameters to be considered and compared. Calculating lift weight requirements is the job of a qualified distributor and their manufacturer/supplier. Boatlifts constructed of aluminum were invented 30 years ago by lift pioneers and are still the best material choice.

**RULE 4:** Finally, consider cost.

**WHY?** Cost is a function of the longevity and maintenance-free performance of the lift over the period of ownership. It is not a function of initial cost alone! A typical cost for a high-performance boatlift should be around \$1,000 per 1,000 lbs. of capacity -i.e. 10,000 lbs. lift capacity would equal \$10,000 or more. Anything less and there is a reason why!

Plastic bushings, sheathes or pulleys, lack of bearings, small open and unsealed motors, old style "plate/worm gear" winch drives, small diameter cables and primary structural beams all lead to [low costs] repairs and premature maintenance issues. Be sure you are not buying them.

Amortize the cost of a boatlift over a period of 20 years [not 10] and the difference per year of a couple of hundred dollars is well worth the investment in added security, performance, support and service.

Article courtesy of ACE Inc. & Associates, exclusive New York distributors of Hi-Tide Boatlifts. For additional information and a free color catalog call 631-807-0300 or visit their website at [www.hi-tide.com](http://www.hi-tide.com) and [www.a-ply.com](http://www.a-ply.com).