

Popeye says
**Be A Hero! Around water,
 keep kids in life jackets.**



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 remind you to be a Hero!
 Around water, keep kids in life jackets.**

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Boat Q&A Talk

By Conrad & Judy Kreuter

Dear Boat Talk: I would like to buy a boat to enjoy with my family, but I keep hearing how expensive it is to own a boat. Is it? AG, Sag Harbor, NY.

Dear AG: Expensive is a relative term. Let's compare the cost of boat ownership versus some other family orientated activities.

That great American pastime, baseball, is one leisure activity the whole family can enjoy. To be able to enjoy a major league game as often as one would use a boat would require the purchase of season tickets. Four season tickets for the whole family to the New York Yankees, for reasonable seats, (not the best, but not the worst) will set you back \$17,800.00. The cost of travel to and from the games, parking, and refreshments, could add another \$175.00 per game, or \$14,175.00 for the season which brings to you to a total of \$31,975.00.

A week's vacation at Walt Disney world in Florida, for a family of four which includes park fees and economy hotel, will cost \$1,600.00. If you want meals, the budget plan which includes one sit down meal, one fast food meal, and a light snack will set you back \$780 for the family for the week. Round trip airfare at today's rates adds another \$1,800.00. So for one week, a Disney vacation would cost a minimum of \$4,180.00, not counting souvenirs and two bottles of SPF 50 sun tan lotion.

Staying closer to home, tickets to a Broadway play will set you back \$130.00 per person (\$520.00 for the family)

plus \$60.00 to park the SUV. Even closer to home the price of a movie ticket is about \$10.00, large popcorn, snacks and a drink around \$10.00 per person, for a family total of \$80.00. And the movie only lasts two hours!

The price of an 18 foot boat to comfortably seat a family of four, plus a couple of friends, averages about \$25,000.00. If financed over 10 years, the cost is under \$3,000.00 per year. Figuring in routine maintenance, insurance, and dockage, even including the gasoline, for about \$2,500.00 more, which divided by approximately 30 weeks of usage (the average boating season in New York), gives you the weekly cost of less than \$200.00 for the whole family. Not to mention that when you sell the boat, you have an asset that has residual value.

So far we have only talked about the financial aspects of boating. The emotional aspects of a boating lifestyle are priceless. Where else can you spend time with friends and family uninterrupted by all of today's pressures? Where else can you enjoy Mother Nature and the environment? Where else can you find peace and serenity to clear your mind so close to home?

Address your questions to:

Moriches Boat & Motor
 200 Atlantic Avenue
 East Moriches, NY 11940

A free subscription to Long Island Boating World will be awarded for each question used.