



Nautical Trivia

by Ginny Hauff



1. Did you know that in today's Navy, when you intentionally deceive someone, usually as a joke, you are said to have "bamboozled" them? The word was used in the days of sail also, but the intent was not hilarity. Bamboozle meant to deceive a passing vessel as to your ship's origin or nationality by flying an ensign other than your own - a common practice of pirates
2. Did you know that 70 percent of boats sold are used for fishing?
3. Did you know that Cape Disappointment, Washington, USA, is the foggiest place on the west coast, with an average of 2,550 hours of fog per year.

4. Did you know that the first rule of safe anchoring is always anchor to the leeward, never windward of the shore?
5. Did you know that the sailfish is reportedly one of the fastest fish in the sea? It can rip off 300 feet of monofilament line in three seconds, equivalent to 68 miles per hour. This velocity is even more impressive when you consider the fact that water is 800 times denser than air.
6. Did you know the term "bug juice" referred to a substance similar in appearance to Kool-Aid? Its color has no bearing on its flavor. It is largely composed of ascorbic acid and used extensively as an all-purpose cleaner/stripper for bulkheads, decks, brass fire nozzles, and pipes.

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