

## Better Boating Tips

### 22. BOATING RECORDS WORLD GUINNESS

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We all want to know what was the biggest and fastest, here's some information from the Guinness Book of World Records, *extract October 2003*.

#### Fastest Car Ferry

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Designed in Australia by Advanced Multi-Hull Designs Pty Ltd, the Luciano Federico L is powered by two 16-megawatt gas turbines and has a loaded speed of 107 km/h (57 knots), with a top speed of 111.2 km/h (60 knots). Built in Spain, she was delivered in October 1997 and has the capacity to carry 52 cars and 450 passengers.

#### Fastest Propeller-Driven Boat

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Russ Wicks of the USA achieved a speed of 330.79 km/h (205.494 mph or 178.61 knots) in his hydroplane Miss Freei on June 15, 2000, at lake Washington, Seattle, USA. This is the highest ever speed in a propeller-driven boat. Miss Freei was driven by a Lycoming L-7C turbine engine taken from a Chinook helicopter, generating 2,237 kW (3,000 hp) at 10,000 rpm (by comparison, most cars produce around 120 kW or 160 hp at no higher than 6,000 rpm). Featuring a canopy from a F-16 jet fighter, the 8.5-m (28-ft), 3-tonne (6,600-lb) boat shoots a 60 m (200 ft) jet of water out behind it at speed.

## Fastest Submarine

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The Russian Alpha class nuclear-powered submarines had a reported maximum speed of over 74 km/h (40 knots), and were believed capable of diving to 760 m (2,500 ft). It is believed only one now remains in service, as a trial boat. Designed by naval architects MG Rusanov and VA Romin, the Alpha class nuclear submarines were constructed at Admiralty Yard in St Petersburg and Severodvinsk. The Russians recently had to take the submarines out of service because of their high maintenance costs.

## Greatest Distance By Pedal Boat

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Kenichi Horie of Kobe, Japan, set a pedal-boating distance record of 7,500 km (4,660 miles), leaving Honolulu, Hawaii, USA, on October 30, 1992 and arriving at Naha, Okinawa, Japan, on February 17, 1993.

## Largest Aircraft Carrier

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The warships with the largest full load displacement in the world are the Nimitz class US Navy aircraft carriers USS Nimitz, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Carl Vinson, Theodore Roosevelt, Abraham Lincoln, George Washington, John C. Stennis, Harry S. Truman and Ronald Reagan, the last five of which displace approximately 98,550 tonnes (217.2 million lb). They are 332.9 m (1,092 ft) long, have 1.82 ha (4.49 acres) of flight deck, and are driven by four nuclear-powered 194,000 kW (260,000 shp) geared steam turbines. Top speeds can reach in excess of 30 knots (56 kmph (34.5 mph)).

Aircraft carriers are the key to any naval engagement. When a crisis strikes, the first task is to get these warships into suitable strategic positions. That's because these maritime mammoths act as a central operational base for many types of attack aircraft. They can accelerate even the heaviest carrier-based planes to speeds of up to 273 kmph (170 mph) and can launch one aircraft every 20 seconds!

### WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Built by the Newport News Shipbuilding Company of Newport News, Virginia, USA, the ships are powered by two nuclear reactors firing four engines. Measuring 332.85 x 76.8 m (1,092 x 252 ft), they're home to some 3,200 crew, plus 2,480 aircraft personnel. A standard Nimitz carrier will hold 85 aircraft, plus two or three Sea Sparrow missile launchers for use in conflict situations. The ships cost a whopping \$4.5 billion each to build.

### CHECK THIS OUT...

Chefs on board the USS Nimitz prepare up to 20,000 meals a day!

## Largest Car Ferry

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The largest "roll-on roll-off" passenger ferry is MV Pride of Rotterdam, which has a cargo-carrying capacity of 59,925 grt and entered service for PO North Sea Ferries in April 2001. Built in Italy by Fincantieri, she is 203.88 m (668.89 ft) long and 31.5 m (103.34 ft) wide, and can carry 250 cars, as well as trucks and shipping containers.

The ferry with the greatest car-carrying capacity is Irish Ferries' Ulysses which can carry 1,342 cars and was launched on September 1, 2000. The ship is 209 m (685.7 ft) long and 31.84 m (104.5 ft) wide and has a capacity of 50,9387 grt

## Largest Container Ship

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With a registered capacity of 8,063 Twenty-foot Equivalent Units (TEU), the 322.97-m (1,059.61-ft) long OOCL SX-class vessels are the world's largest container ships. The first, OOCL Shenzhen, was launched on April 30, 2003. It was built by Samsung Heavy Industries Co., Ltd (South Korea), and is owned and operated by Orient Overseas Container Line Ltd (OOCL). OOCL Shenzhen is the first in a fleet of SX-class vessels which are to be delivered by the end of 2005. Other specifications include: Beam: 42.8 m (140.4 ft); Deadweight: approx. 100,000 tonnes (cargo-carrying capacity); Full load speed: 25.2 knots (46.6 km/h or 28.9 mph).

Bigger and faster ships are built and launched all the time, I expect world records will continue to change hands.

## Containers

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One of the mainstays of international transport, container lines have constantly upped the ante by building ever-larger ships to improve efficiency. As recently as 2000, the largest container ships in service had a capacity of 6,600 TEU (standard shipping containers), but on 30 April, Hong Kong-based Orient Overseas Container Line (OOCL) launched the largest container ship ever, a 322.97 m (1,059.61 ft) long 8,063 TEU leviathan called OOCL Shenzhen. When the OOCL Shenzhen was docked in Southampton in June 2003, Guinness World Records Transport Researcher Hein Le Roux was given a tour of the vessel along with UK-based OOCL staff and customers.

"She's a giant in every respect – a single 12-cylinder, 69,439 kW (93,120 bhp) engine turns an 85 tonne (187,000 lb) propeller at a top speed of only 106 RPM," explains Hein. "To compare, a typical family car engine generates around 90 kW (120 hp) and turns at up to 7,000 RPM. Fuel consumption for cars is expressed in miles per gallon, but on ships of this size it is measured in tonnes of fuel consumed per hour, and the rate is typically in excess of 10."

OOCL Shenzhen displaces (i.e. weighs) 34,325 tonnes (75.67 million lb) 'light' (i.e. empty) and is capable of carrying 99,518 tonnes (219.3 million lb) of cargo, fuel and stores, giving a full load displacement of 133,843 tonnes (295 million lb), equivalent to around 88,000 of those family sedans.

Thanks to large-scale automation, Shenzhen has a crew complement of only 19, and virtually the entire ship can be controlled and adjusted from a single Windows-based computer terminal. Several such terminals are scattered throughout the ship, meaning that the ship's officers can make adjustments to the ship from their cabins if necessary.

"When the ships arrive in port, they're worked by up to five cranes simultaneously," says Hein. "The ships are in and out of port so quickly it means that, for the crew, the days of 'having a girl in every port' are well and truly over."

## Largest Guns On A Ship

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The largest guns ever mounted in any of HM ships were the 45.7-cm (18-in) pieces in the light battle cruiser (later aircraft carrier) HMS Furious in 1917. In 1918 they were transferred to the monitors HMS Lord Clive and General Wolf.

## Largest Cargo Vessel

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The world's largest ship of any kind is the oil tanker Jahre Viking (formerly the Happy Giant and Seawise Giant), at 564,763 tonnes (555,843 tons).

The tanker is 458.45 m (1,504 ft) long overall, has a beam of 68.8 m (226 ft) and a draught of 24.61 m (80 ft 9 in). Declared a total loss after being disabled by severe bombardment in 1987-8 during the Iran-Iraq war, the tanker underwent extensive renovation in Singapore and Dubai, United Arab Emirates costing some \$60 million (£34 million) and was relaunched under its new name in November 1991.

## Largest Sail

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The 47.42-m (155.56-ft) long sloop Hyperion, built by Dutch boat builder Wolter Huisman, has the largest mainsail ever made, with an area of 516 sq m (5,500 sq ft). It can cope with a wind force equivalent to 10 tonnes

## Largest Sailing Ship

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The biggest sailing vessel ever built was the 5,900-tonne (5,806-ton) France II, which was launched at Bordeaux, France, in 1911. This steel-hulled, five-masted ship had a 127.4-m (418-ft) long hull. Although principally designed as a sailing vessel, she was also fitted with two auxiliary engines. However, these engines were removed in 1919 and she became a pure sailing vessel. She was wrecked off New Caledonia on July 12, 1922. From 1913, the France II was used both for transporting Caledonian nickel and for transporting passengers. The ship was equipped with a grand piano, a dark room, a library, and was armed with two cannons. (9.81 tons).

## Largest Square Rigger Sailing Ship In Service

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The Royal Clipper is 133.8 m (439 ft) in length with 5,202 sq m (56,000 sq ft) of canvas on five masts, with 42 sails reaching 60 m (197 ft) – 3.6 m (12 ft) taller than Nelson's Column – above the waterline. She has a maximum speed of 20 knots and a displacement of 5,000 tonnes (11.023 million lb).

The brainchild of Swedish sailor, lawyer, and property entrepreneur, Mikael Krafft, the Royal Clipper is the pride and joy of "tall ship" tour operator Star Clippers. All their boats are modeled on the swift sea vessels that first ferried goods around the world during the 19th century. Mikael calls the experience "mega-yachting", and says he aims to provide holidaymakers with an entry into the world of luxury sailing. The Royal Clipper can carry up to 228 passengers, with 106 crewmembers, and normally cruises the Caribbean and the western Mediterranean.

## Largest Indoor Water Park

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The Ocean Dome at Miyazaki, Kyushu, Japan, is 300-m (984 ft 3 in) long, 100-m (328 ft 1 in) wide, and 38-m (124 ft 8 in) high, with a 140-m-long (459 ft 3 in) beach made from crushed marble.

## Lowest Road

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The world's lowest road runs along the Israeli shores of the Dead Sea at 393 m (1,289 ft) below sea level.

## Worst Yacht Racing Disaster

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Between August 13 and 15, 1979, 19 people died during the 28th Fastnet Race, when 23 boats sank or were abandoned in a Force 11 gale. Of the 316 boats that started the race, only 128 finished. Thirty-six people were saved by air-sea rescue units.

## Worst Single Ship Disaster

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The paddle steamer Sultana sank on the Mississippi River, USA on April 21, 1865, as a result of her boilers exploding. More than 1,650 lives were lost. The majority of those killed were Union soldiers, who had recently been released from Confederate prisons. There were 741 survivors.

## Worst Single-Ship Disaster During A War

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When the German liner Wilhelm Gustloff, weighing 25,484 tonnes (25,893 tons), was torpedoed off Danzig (now known as Gdansk), Poland, by a Soviet S-13 submarine on January 30, 1945, a total of 7,700 people died. The Wilhelm Gustloff was heading West from the port Gotenhafen packed with over 8000 people who were fleeing from the advancing Soviet forces.

## Largest Tie-Up Of Boats

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The greatest number of boats tied together in a continuous free-floating line is 691 on Lake Norman, North Carolina, USA on June 25, 2000 at the "Raft-Off 2000" event.

## Earliest Use Of Marine Mammals In Defence

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The earliest use of marine mammals in active military defence was during the Vietnam War between 1970 and 1971, when five US Navy bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) were sent to Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam, to defend US military boats from enemy swimmers.

## Longest Ocean Swim

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Australian Susie Maroney swam a record 197 km (122 miles) from Mexico to Cuba, covering the longest distance ever swum without flippers in open sea. She completed the marathon water journey in 38 hours and 33 minutes, arriving in Cuba on June 1, 1998. When 24-year-old Susie dived in on May 30, 1998, for her epic swim, she hit troubled waters almost instantly. Storms struck on the first night. Wearing just a costume, a special t-shirt, and protected by a cage, Susie reveals, "It was pretty scary because the waves were so big. They hit the boat and crashed in on the cage, which nearly sank." Thankfully her two brothers and mother were on board the support boat. "It was pretty shocking, but I just thought, 'I can't turn back now'." She even broke her wrist during the storm, but amazingly, carried on. "It wasn't until after the swim that it really started hurting. My whole body was in pain, so it couldn't get any worse," she jokes. A curious whale restored her enthusiasm when it approached the cage and swam with her for half an hour! "It was a nice experience because it made me appreciate where I was!" Other sea creatures weren't so kind, however. Susie suffered stings after fending off jellyfish.

## Most America's Cup Appearances

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Dennis Conner has participated in more America's Cup races than any other sailor: six times since 1974. Dennis Conner, Charlie Barr, and Harold S. Vanderbilt (all USA) have each captained the winner

## Youngest World Diving Champion

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Fu Mingxia (b. August 16, 1978) won the women's world title for platform diving at Perth, Australia, on January 4, 1991, at 12 years and 141 days. Fu took up the sport of diving at the age of seven, and she joined the Chinese junior diving team at 11. She became the youngest Olympic Champion in 1996 at the Barcelona games. Fu now studies economics at Qinghua University in China.

## Longest Water-Skiing Marathon

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Ralph Hildebrand and Dave Phillips (both from Canada) water-skied for 56 hrs, 35 mins, 3 secs around Indian Arm, Rocky Point, Canada. The feat was completed on June 12, 1994 and covered 2,152.3 km (1,337.46 miles). Infrared binoculars and spotlights were used whilst the duo were skiing at night.

## Furthest Distance Walking On Water

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Remy Bricka "walks on water" by having polyester ski-floats attached to his feet and by moving in the same way as a cross-country skier, using a double-headed paddle instead of ski-poles. He walked across the Atlantic Ocean, starting out from Tenerife in the Spanish Canary Islands on April 2, and ending in Trinidad on May 31, 1998. The nautical nomad took no food on the Atlantic trip. He relied instead on a pump to filter seawater, and he ate plankton and the occasional flying fish that flipped onto his small survival pod. Remy's a philosophical type. "Our time goes very quickly. In eternity our time is one second. In this second I will use my time to realize my dream," he says. He was 39 when he broke the record. A self-proclaimed explorer, the thing Remy finds most frustrating about his treks across water is the slow pace of it. He also holds the record for being the fastest walker on water. On August 2, 1989, he set a speed record of 7 minutes 7.41 seconds for 1 km on the Olympic pool in Montreal, Canada.

## Bath Tub paddling

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In 1983, 13 members of the UK's Aldington Prison Officers Social Club thought they'd make bath time a bit more exciting, so they paddled a distance of 145.6 km (90.5 miles) across still water in a regular bathtub!