

GAVIOTA BOAT HOIST - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Revised 1/27/2007

The following information has been prepared to answer some of the commonly asked questions about the boat hoist facility at Gaviota State Park.

Q. What's happening with the boat hoist at Gaviota State Park?

A. California State Parks received funding from the California Department of Boating and Waterways in fiscal year 2005-06 to accomplish the upgrade recommended in a report provided by Northeast Engineers & Consultants, Inc (NE&C). We have successfully completed the upgrade and the hoist is now open for public use. Classes to train boat owners and operators on the proper use of the hoist have been conducted and will continue to be scheduled as long as there is a demand. State Park employees and volunteers provide launch and retrieval services on Saturdays to boaters who have not completed the hoist training.

Q. What are the hours that the hoist is open?

A. For individuals who have not yet received Operator certification and require launch/retrieval by a certified State Park employee or volunteer, the hoist operating hours are 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Saturdays only. Once boaters successfully complete training and are certified to operate the hoist, they may use the hoist seven days a week, weather & swell conditions permitting. Hoist hours of operation for certified operators are 7:00 AM to sunset.

If no vessels have been launched by 1:00 PM, the hoist will be closed to staff-assisted launching.

Q. Why is the hoist only open one day a week for non-trained boaters?

A. The hoist operator training has produced certified hoist operators for the bulk of Gaviota hoist users. Reducing staff-assisted hoist operation to Saturdays only allows us to accommodate the few remaining non-trained boaters during the most popular day of the week while minimizing our staff costs. We encourage boaters who want to use the hoist on other days to complete the hoist training.

Q. What does the training consist of?

A. Hoist operator training consists of instruction in the safe and correct operation of the hoist as well as associated launch and retrieval procedures and related State Park rules and regulations. State Park employees and volunteers will then conduct a practical examination during which boaters will demonstrate that they have mastered the proper hoist operation and launch/retrieval procedures and that their vessel complies with all safety requirements. We have developed a training handbook that describes the entire launch and retrieval procedure and that includes additional helpful information. Training participants receive a copy of the handbook at the training session they attend. We have also posted a link to the handbook on the Gaviota State Park web page at the California State Parks web site.

Q. How long is the training?

A. The classroom session lasts for about 1 hour. The practical examination takes approximately 10 minutes depending on the ability of the boater.

Q. Is there a charge for the training?

A. No. The training is provided free of charge.

Q. Where is the training held?

A. The classroom session is held within 15 minutes drive time from Gaviota State Park. Location information is provided at the time attendance is confirmed. The practical examination and vessel inspection is held on the pier.

Q. Who must attend the training?

A. Any boater who wants to operate the hoist, as well as any deckhands that will operate the hoist, must first complete the hoist operator training. Only those people who have successfully completed the training will be certified to operate the hoist. Boaters who do not complete the training can have State Parks staff launch/retrieve their vessel when staff-assisted vessel launching/retrieval is offered (currently Saturdays only).

Q. What happens when I successfully complete the training?

A. Your name will be placed on a list of boaters who have been approved to operate the hoist. We will issue one key card to the vessel owner. The card, which activates the hoist, will be assigned to the vessel's CF number. Each card can only be used for the specific vessel to which it is assigned. The vessel owner may give the card to other persons who have also completed the training and have been certified to operate the hoist. It is the vessel owner's responsibility to make sure that the card is used only by certified hoist users and only for the vessel that the card is assigned to. Cards are subject to cancellation if these policies are not observed.

Q. Do I have to be a boat owner to attend the training?

A. No. California State Parks can provide a vessel for the practical examination. However, all other personal vessels will be subject to a safety inspection before they will be allowed to launch.

Q. Is there a charge to use the hoist?

A. Yes. In addition to the park day-use fee of \$8 per vehicle, there is a fee of \$8 to launch your motorized vessel. This applies to hoist launches as well as beach launches. An annual pass is available to frequent park users for \$125. An annual boat use pass is also available for \$75. For more information on these and other passes, visit the California State Parks website at www.parks.ca.gov.

Q. Will any of these changes affect beach launching?

A. No. Small boat operators can still launch from the beach at Gaviota State Park 7 days a week. We will be developing signage regarding beach launching guidelines and

requirements and will also conduct spot checks to ensure that all beach-launched vessels possess the required safety equipment.

Q. I have to schedule time off from work or otherwise plan in advance to use my boat. It would be great if you would let us know when the hoist is going to be closed.

A. We will make every effort to announce planned maintenance of the hoist well enough in advance for boaters to plan accordingly. Boaters should also monitor multi-day weather reports for changing weather patterns that might create unsafe conditions, which would cause us to close the hoist. Unforeseen breakdowns or sudden weather changes are obviously impossible to predict in advance.

Q. Where can I get a copy of the NE&C Report?

A. The NE&C Report, "Boat Launch and Retrieval Facility Assessment Report," is a study of the boat hoist at Gaviota State Park that was conducted by Northeast Engineers and Consultants, Inc. over a 4-month period in early 2005. California State Parks contracted with NE&C to evaluate the mechanical and operational aspects of the hoist to determine the cause(s) of the accidents and breakdowns and provide recommendations to for eliminating them. The NE&C Report is available on the California State Parks website at the following address: http://www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=606.

Q. The NE&C Report indicates that the hoist must remain at 2-ton maximum rated capacity. What will be required to raise the limit?

A. See the NE&C Report, page 10; Section 4.1, under Hoist Load Rating. We have no plans to increase the weight limit for vessels launched from the pier at Gaviota State Park.

Q. Where can I get more information?

A. You can request to be added to the Gaviota Boat Hoist email list to receive the latest news and developments concerning the hoist. Send your first, last name & the contact email address to gaviotahoist@parks.ca.gov (this new email address replaces the previous one). It is your responsibility to contact State Parks at the above email address if your contact email address changes. You can also call 805-968-1033 for recorded status of the hoist, updated regularly.