

How to identify Seabreeze Hull Numbers

by Art Hall, #36

On November 1, 1972 the USCG required all manufactures of boats to provide a Hull Identification Number (HIN). The last Seabreeze, hull 135, had been delivered. On boats produced after that date you will find an identifier molded into the transom. Prior to that, the manufacture assigned hull numbers as boats went out the door to their new owners.

We believe each boat was delivered with a small black plaque engraved with white letters.

Allied Boat Company

Catskill, New York

Hull XXX

Unfortunately, these plaques were not permanently affixed and we suspect they proved too tempting of a memento to an owner who sold their boat. Those now likely are forgotten in the back of some desk drawer. A few survive.

Through a succession of owners the trail gets more of a mystery. In the early years of the boat, most main sails include the hull number, new sails were sometimes ordered without, and that identifier was lost. It's also possible that owners bought used sails that had hull numbers. You can see how a boat can obtain a new identity.

Fortunately there is a reliable way to reestablish your lost number. As components came down the assembly line, most had their hull number penciled on the raw plywood. If you take the time to poke around you may find these. Obviously the painted surface obscures the markings. However, the varnished draw bottoms, door edges and other varnished surfaces may reveal the number.