

Smart Harbors

Raising the Standard

Winter 2020

Virginia Clean Marina Re-certifications

by Pete Hall

Congratulations to the following marinas that have achieved re-certification as Virginia Clean Marinas:

- Coan River Marina
- Compass Marina
- Dandy Haven Marina
- James City County Marina
- The Oyster Farm at Kings Creek Marina
- River's Rest Marina
- Tidewater Yacht Marina
- Quantico Marina

We now have 61, or 82%, of the program's marinas re-certified.

We would also like to welcome two Mathews County, Virginia marinas to the VCM program – Mobjack Bay Marina as a newly certified Virginia Clean Marina and Horn Harbor Marina that has pledged to become a Virginia Clean Marina.



It's Time for the Midwinter Visit to the Boat: 8 Secrets for a Safe Checkup

By BoatUS

ANNAPOLIS, Md. – It's midwinter which means it's time to check up on your vessel in storage. Why? How your boat fares over the long and, in some cases, brutal winter will help ensure a timely spring launch. However, checking up on a boat during winter requires unique seasonal safeguards according to the BoatUS Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water. U.S. Coast Guard statistics show that January has the most number of accidents that result in death. Here are eight tips for doing it safely:

- ≈ If your boat is stored in the water, consider making a visit with a friend. That's because there's a good chance that in the dead of winter no one would hear a potential call for help if you accidentally slipped and fell overboard.
- ≈ If there's ever a reason to wear a life jacket, now may be the time, especially if you're solo. A simple little slip could have big consequences, and a life jacket could buy you the time for self-rescue, which tees up the next tip:
- ≈ Know where the dock ladders are located.
- ≈ Fluffy snow can be deceptively slick, so save the smooth-soled boat shoes for the summer and wear something with traction. According to BoatUS Marine Insurance, slip and falls are a common claim occurring in a marina.

- ≈ Be extremely careful if using a ladder when boarding a boat stored in the marina yard or on a trailer. Ensure it is firmly planted, secure it with a line at the top to avoid shifting, and if possible, have a friend hold it when you're ascending/descending. Use bucket and line tied to a cleat to help move tools and supplies to keep your hands free to hold the ladder.
- ≈ Heavy snow loads can add tremendous weight. Now is the time to ensure any tarps or coverings haven't been loosened and enough pitch remains to slough off snow and ice. As during boating season,

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A fall into the water this time of year could quickly become life threatening. Photo credit: BoatUS.

Source for Spill Kit Products

by Pete Hall

Breg International is a local source (based in Fredericksburg, VA) for marine spill kit products. Outside sales manager Michael Commins says “Breg makes a line of products that can assist marinas and member boaters to attain the certification required to become or maintain their status as a Virginia Clean Marina.”

Breg has dock box spill kits, fuel station spill kits, clean boater spill kits and everything in between. For example, the fuel station spill kit contains: 100 oil only pads (15” x 19”); 6 oil only ecobooms (5”x10’); 6 oil only pillows (17”x17”); 5 disposal bags; 1 pair goggles; and, 2 pair nitrile gloves all contained in a bright yellow color 65-gallon, polyethylene overpack that won’t rust, dent, crack or corrode. Smaller configurations also available.

Contact Michael Commins at (ossales@bregintl.com) to request a catalog. Michael is anxious to work with marinas individually or in groups to benefit from bulk sales.

Oil Absorbent Bilge Pads Available

Oil absorbent bilge pads are available for distribution. The bilge pads were purchased with a grant from the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund. Please email askVCMP@vims.edu, if you would like bilge pads for your slip holders.



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Virginia Marine Trades Association Annual Conference Overview

by Donald McCann

The Virginia Marine Trades Association (VMTA) held their annual conference in early November of last year. The event was hosted and partially sponsored by VIMS, with a welcome provided by Dr. Dave Rudders, associate director of the Marine Advisory Program. There were approximately 70 people in attendance, with a good representation from all aspects of the marine trades, including surveyors, brokers, repair facilities and marinas. There was even a cadre from Northern Neck Technical Center (NNTC), which offers the only high school marine trades curriculum in the Commonwealth. For those who were unable to attend, you missed a stellar conference, as there was a little bit of something for everyone.

Congressman Rob Wittman of Virginia’s 1st Congressional District provided his introductions via YouTube, by addressing the significance of the industry to the coastal rural counties and key to workforce development in rural areas. He then briefly addressed the importance of the working waterfront to Virginia and the nation at large.

Captain Pat Mundus, East End Charter, Greenport New York, provided the keynote address. She has a unique perspective of the waterfront – starting as a mate on her father’s boat out of Montauk, New York then attending the SUNY Maritime College and went on to work as one of the first female officers to serve in the Merchant Marine. For those who don’t know, she is the daughter of the famous shark hunter Frank Mundus who many say was personified as Quint in Peter Benchley’s “Jaws.”

Margaret Podlich then took the podium to provide an overview as to the state of the industry, particularly in the arena of recruitment for employees. This synopsis helped set the tone for the workforce round

table during which panelists gave an overview as to their perspective of the challenges before the boating industry vs competition with the auto industry.

Paul Anderson, Manager, Regent Point Marina, Topping, provided his insights as to how a horror show can occur when an unwitting buyer purchases an ancient boat for a “super good deal”, without understanding the challenges involved.

Chris Dolan, Customer Relations Manager for Marina Electrical Equipment (MEE) in Williamsburg provided some timely information regarding ground-fault requirements per the National Electrical Code and general best practices for a marina electrical system. He

emphasized that electrical problems within a marina can be minimized or avoided if they are detected early and addressed immediately. The presentation provided a checklist and many examples of what owners, operators, and maintenance individuals should be looking for during routine marina inspections to minimize potential issues before they happen.

And finally, Evan Ridley, Rhode Island Marine Trades Association, Project Manager, provided an overview of the Southern New England Marine Industry first ever environmental conference held in April, which focused on practical approaches to environmental issues facing marine businesses. Some of the topics included, making marina operations greener and more resilient, navigating regulatory issues, the lifecycle and waste management of materials used in the marine products and recreational boating, and marketing sustainable practices to consumers. Evan is leading the Rhode Island fiberglass vessel recycling (RIFVR) pilot project which aims to address the disposal issue for the high number of recreational fiberglass boats reaching the end of their service lives.



50 YEARS EARTH DAY 2020

Be a Responsible Boater on Earth Day, and Every Day

By Lisa Lawrence

April 22, 2020 is the 50th anniversary of Earth Day! In honor of this important occasion, Sea Tow Foundation has 7 tips for boating green (http://boatingsafety.com/7_green_boating_tips/):

1. Avoid plastic bags
2. Use non-toxic cleaners
3. Take care when fueling
4. Perform regular maintenance
5. Dispose of (or recycle) trash properly
6. Dispose of fishing hooks and line properly
7. Hose down your boat when changing water bodies

For even more clean boating best practices, check out Inter-Marine's Earth Day Guide to Responsible Boating (<http://www.intermarineboats.com/news-events/An-Earth-Day-Guide-to-Responsible-Boating/156>).

For additional information on the Virginia Clean Marina program please click on the logo to visit our website.



BoatUS Reveals Top 10 Most-Watched Boating Videos from 2019

by BoatUS

SPRINGFIELD, Va. – It would take one person watching for 82 years to view what is uploaded every hour to YouTube. That volume of videos also means recreational boaters consistently have a trove of how-to, consumer and practical help easily viewed at any hour of the day. What did boaters watch this year? Boat Owners Association of The United States (BoatUS) shares its list of Top 10 Most-Watched Boating Videos from 2019 (<https://bit.ly/35fcLNM>).

Said BoatUS Magazine Publisher Elio Betty, whose editors produce BoatUS's videos: "Boaters are always hungry to learn more or to pick up a challenging new boat-handling skill such as learning how to back a single engine inboard boat into a slip, our most-watched video posted this year." Viewers to the BoatUS YouTube channel also sought out practical advice: 'How to Tie a Clove Hitch' was No. 2. "Along with a cleat hitch and bowline, every boater needs to know these three knots. It also makes perfect sense that 'How to Choose a Bimini Top' was No. 4 – we all want a place that's out of the sun, and a bimini is one the first purchases boaters make after they buy a boat."

The BoatUS YouTube channel's top 10 most-watched boating videos from 2019:



"Backing into a Slip with a Single Engine Inboard Boat" was the number one BoatUS YouTube video in 2019. Photo credit: BoatUS.

1. Docking: Backing Into a Slip with a Single Engine Inboard Boat
2. How to Tie a Clove Hitch
3. Boat Handling: Pivot or 'Walk' a Single Screw Inboard Without Thrusters
4. Buyers Guide: How Do I Choose a Boat Bimini Top?
5. How to Raise and Lower a Boat Bimini Top
6. 5 Fishing Lures Every Angler Should Own
7. Create A Hurricane Plan for Your Boat
8. 3 New Walkarounds from Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show 2019
9. How to Pivot or Turn Around a Single Engine Inboard Boat in its Own Length
10. Highlights of Jeanneau Leader 9.0 CC

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always "keep one hand on the boat" when adjusting covers or lines that are difficult to reach.

≈ Check jackstands to ensure they haven't moved, but don't ever attempt to move or adjust one by yourself – that's the marina's job. Do not tie off tarps to stands as winds could pull them out.

≈ Shoveling or chipping away ice on your boat may cause damage. A stiff broom is best to clear a path.

For more tips on winter boat storage, additional information can be found at <https://www.boatus.com/expert-advice/how-to-diy/winterization>.