



E—C U R R E N T S

JANUARY 2010

FROM THE PRESIDENT— Bob Pilcher

Calendar

- Jan. 19 Clean Marina Workshop, Georgetown, 1:00
- Jan. 22-24 Charleston Boat Show, Charleston Convention Center
- Jan. 27-29 International Marina & Boatyard Conference, Tampa, FL
- Feb. 11-14 Columbia Boat Show, State Fairgrounds
- Feb. 11-15 Miami International Boat Show
- Feb. 25 3M Respirator Training, West Ashley
- TBA SCMA Board of Directors meetings
- March 1-4 South Atlantic Fisheries Management Council meetings, Jekyll Island
- March 4-7 Charleston Food & Wine Festival
- March 6 Charleston Angler Spring Fling Expo
- March 11-13 National Shag Dance Championships, Myrtle Beach
- March 13 Carolina Yard Experience, Exchange Park, Ladson
- March 18 Taste of Lake Murray
- March 26-27 Myrtle Beach Beer Fest
- March 26-28 Palmetto Sportsmen's Classic, Columbia, State Fairgrounds
- March 27-28 Spring National Championship Catfish Tournament, Santee-Cooper Lakes, Manning
- March 28-31 IMI Marine Service Management Course, Ft. Lauderdale

As the South Carolina Marine Association enters its 14th year, we are faced with many challenges but, more importantly, many opportunities. With the sale of the SC In-Water Boat Show in late 2007, the Board of Directors was faced with finding new and substantial sources of revenue. While hindsight may have predicted it, little did we know at that time how deep and far reaching this economic recession was to become.

The global effect on the recreational marine industry has, for many, been disastrous and permanent. But, life goes on and, in the face of adversity, we must seek opportunity.

Remembering that part of SCMA's mission statement is to promote recreational boating, in 2009 the Board seized such an opportunity by establishing the individual non-trade membership. With 438,000 registered vessels in the state, the potential to grow the marine association to never before realized

heights is now within our reach. But this opportunity will not become reality without the help of each and every member, industry and non-industry alike. While SCMA fell slightly short of its individual membership goal, what's more distressing is that the goals established for the individual membership level outperformed that of the professional and trade memberships.

This past year SCMA was instrumental in changing state law to establish a 180-day situs for qualifying vessels before being subjected to personal property tax. By the end of February, through the efforts of SCMA's executive director Suzi DuRant and our legislative lobbyist Wayne Beam, SCMA will propose legislation that will, in effect, lower the SC tax rate on all vessels, registered or documented, to a level competitive with North Carolina and Georgia. Need I remind everyone, these victories do not come without considerable cost. As with any business, money is the fuel that keeps things moving.



Bob Pilcher

Through the efforts of SCMA Board member Gene Strader,

we completely redesigned the website this year, providing for online membership renewal. As we move into 2010, we are planning many new features to drive traffic to the site.

The South Carolina Marine Association can only continue to do its work through its membership. Please consider how your membership in the association benefits you. I am always available to discuss any issues affecting you or your organization.

Warmest wishes for prosperity in the coming year,

Bob Pilcher

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SCMA ANNUAL MEETING & CONFERENCE

Despite torrential downpours, flooding and speaker cancellations, SCMA's 2009 Annual Meeting and Education Conference was a success. From preserving working waterfronts to new ways to deal with trash, members picked up new knowledge. A big thanks goes to our exhibitors, Marine Sales Group, Nolan BioLabs and the Wade Dunbar Agency.

Special thanks go to retiring directors Doug Ford (IntraCoastal Yacht Sales) and Gene Strader, CMM (Coquina Yacht Club) for their service to the association over the last three years. Replacing them are Jeff Boger (Berry-Boger Yacht Sales) and Bryan Smith (Wacca Wacce Marina).

At a subsequent Board meeting, the following officers were elected:

President Bob Pilcher

Vice President Stan Jones

Treasurer Rion Salley

Secretary Dwayne Schalles

MEMBER NEWS

Welcome to new individual members: Denny Headington, North Myrtle Beach; Dr. Parker Stokes, Florence; Jack Howard, Travelers Rest; Terry Allen, Sugar Hill, GA; Mark Christensen, Hanahan; and Norman Hastings, Folly Beach.

Welcome to new professional members: FenderRods, Hamp Greene in Hilton Head; Marine Boatbuilders Co., Richard Audette, Warwick, RI; Ripley Light Yacht Club, Jennifer Jeffries, Charleston; Ocean Isle Marina & Yacht Club, Tim Moon, Ocean Isle Beach, NC, SeaTow Lake Murray, John Altenberg, Lexington, SC; Waterway Surveys & Engineering, Michael Conklin, Mt. Pleasant; Mariners Pointe Marina, Mary Wilkinson, Little River; and Allen and Furr, Kelly Sigg, Hilton Head.

Pending membership applications include Maritime Repair in Georgetown, Total Yacht Management & Repair in Hanahan, Stingray Boat Company in Hartsville, and Seawalls Docks and Repairs, Inc. in Charleston.

Scout Boats in Summerville announced that it has reached an agreement with the Hall Marine Group to make Sea Ray—Scout of Charleston the local dealer servicing the Charleston Tri-County area. Rick Hall will move his operation into the new Sportsman's Island location on Daniel Island.

NEW BOAT NEWS

It seems as if some of our boat manufacturers are fighting back against the recession. Both Bénéteau USA and Scout Boats are introducing new models.

Bénéteau will have its new Marion-built Oceanis 50 at the Miami International Boat Show. Bénéteau will also be showing the French-built Oceanis 58, the First 35 by Farr Yacht Design, the Monte Carlo 42 and 47 Flybridge, the Antares 30 and 42 and the new Swift Trawler 34. We will have a feature on the Oceanis 50 in the next newsletter.



Scout Boats is about to launch its new 345 SXF to debut at the Charleston Boat Show, then the Miami show. As of Monday, according to Sherrie Ferguson at Scout, "the twin 350 Yamahas have been hung, all wiring is complete, interior cushions have been installed, the interior console is complete, the hardtop electronic sunshade is installed, and all options and accessories including electronics have been installed. All that is left to be completed are the lids." The flagship center console is Scout's 10th new model for the 2010 season. The first nine were introduced at the Fort Lauderdale Boat Show.

News From Beaufort, SC

Port Royal Landing Marina's manager Rion Salley and Chairman Emeritus of the Beaufort Sport Fishing and Diving Club Frank Gibson announced that the 2010 Beaufort Annual Tournament began with a clean standing board January 1 with some 28 species that can be weighed in at the Port Royal Landing Marina during operating hours seven days a week.

There are several categories in which anglers can compete, such as female, youth 17 and under, and under 10 for specific species, as well as largest species. There are also awards for Best Commercial Boat and Best Recreational Boat. Brochures are available at Port Royal Landing Marina and most fishing supplies stores. There is no entry fee; each angler must weigh in their own fish which can be transported by boat or car to the marina.

Anglers are not required to be a member of the Beaufort Sport Fishing and Diving Club nor a Beaufort County resident to participate in the year-round tournament. The only major rules are that fish must be caught in salt water on a rod and reel from a boat and be of legal size. Several species are now excluded from the tournament because of mandatory emergency conservation regulations that were passed by the South Atlantic Fisheries Management Council.

In recent years, the Hilton Head Fishing Club has joined the tournament so multiple weigh-in locations were added for that locale.

A travelling trophy was also created which is currently enshrined at the Port Royal Landing Marina since "North of the Broad stomped South of the Broad". The awards for the tournament are presented at an annual oyster roast.



NEWS FROM LAKE MURRAY

The Midlands' top recreational lake, site of many fishing tournaments including the 2008 Forrest Wood Cup (one of professional bass fishing's richest tournaments) is caught up in a controversy over mercury in its fish.

The US Environmental Protection Agency released a report last November on contaminants in lake species. Based on data collected nine years ago, it found that fish in Lake Murray exceeded not only the recommended federal health level but also a more stringent state level.

But, the SC Department of Health & Environmental Control does its own testing and claims the pollution hasn't been widespread enough to issue health warnings. DHEC tests from 2000 to 2008 show that about 40% of the lake's largemouth and striped bass had mercury levels above SC's health safety limit, according to analysis by The State newspaper. However, in a written statement to the paper, DHEC said, "Mercury has been consistently low in the many fish species that have been tested."

To read more about this issue, check out the The State newspaper archives in the News—Local/Metro section for last month.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The SC Legislature convened January 12th and will be in session until June.

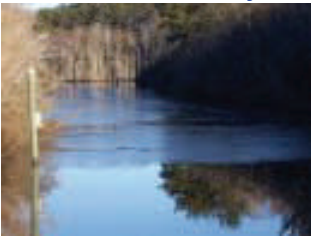
S 405, which passed the Senate on May 13, is now in the House Ways & Means Committee. It gives the counties the option to adopt ordinances allowing boats to stay for 90 or 180 aggregate days, regardless of the number of consecutive days, before becoming liable for property taxes. Several county councils have found the language in the current law to be confusing. As introduced by Sen. Cleary, the bill would also have extended to boats owned by LLCs the option to reduce taxes by applying the second home requirements to qualifying boats. This provision was dropped but we hope to have it reinstated.

SCMA would like to use this piece of legislation as a vehicle for leveling the playing field on property taxes between SC and our neighboring states. We are still working on how to achieve this. Rep. Tracy Edge has offered to introduce whatever amendments SCMA wants or to introduce new legislation.

Another concern is the Property Tax Realignment Commission that is considering recommending removing the cap on sales tax on boats.

We will also have a resolution introduced designating June 12 as National Marina Day in our state. The AMI decided to move the date last fall.

Wintertime Blues — Icy Blues, that is!



An unusual sight in the entrance to Osprey Marina and in the marina!



Sherry Harrelson sent these photos of our January freeze. Doug Ford sent some from Coquina Harbor but I couldn't get those to copy. He did request that we send them to Al Gore.

South Carolina Marine Association

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YOUR ASSISTANCE IS REQUESTED!

Every year SCMA needs volunteers to help man our displays to attract new members and to garner support for our legislative initiatives. Please consider offering a couple of hours of your time at the following events:

Charleston Boat Show January 22-24

Carolina Yard Experience February 13

Palmetto Sportsmen's Classic February 26-28

Charleston In-Water Boat Show April 23-25



MORE CLEAN MARINAS CERTIFIED

Congratulations to Osprey Marina in Myrtle Beach, River Hills Marina Club in Lake Wylie, and The City Marina in Charleston for being recertified as SC Clean Marinas. And congratulations also go to Long Cove Club in Hilton Head for becoming a new Clean Marina.

If you would like more information on becoming a Clean Marina or Clean Boatyard, check our website at www.scmarine.org/cleanmarina.



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