



E—CURRENTS

F E B R U A R Y 2 0 1 0

FROM THE PRESIDENT — Bob Pilcher

Calendar

- Feb. 25 West Marine 3M Respirator Training, West Ashley
- Mar. 1-4 South Atlantic Fisheries Management Council meeting, Jekyll Island
- Mar. 4-7 Charleston Food & Wine Festival
- Mar. 6 Charleston Angler Spring Fling Expo
- Mar. 8 SCMA Board of Directors meeting, Columbia
- Mar. 11-13 National Shag Dance Championships, Myrtle Beach
- Mar. 13 Carolina Yard Experience, Ladson Exchange Park
- Mar. 16 Clean Marina Workshop, Hilton Head
- Mar. 18 Taste of Lake Murray
- Mar. 21-26 IMI Advanced Marina Management School, Charleston
- Mar. 26-27 Myrtle Beach Beer Fest
- Mar. 26-28 Palmetto Sportsmen's Classic, Columbia State Fairgrounds
- Mar. 27-28 Spring National Championship Catfist Tournaments, Santee-Cooper Lakes
- Mar. 28-31 IMI Marine Service Management Course, Ft. Lauderdale
- April 8-10 Charleston Race Week
- April 11 Annual Sock-burning Ritual, Lighthouse Marina, Chapin
- April 12 SCMA Board of Directors Meeting
- April 16-18 East Coast Canoe & Kayak Festival, James Island
- April 17 Dragon Boat Upstate Festival, Lake Hartwell
- April 17-27 Striped Bass Festival, Manning
- April 24 Hilton Head Seafood Festival; Soft Shell Crab Festival, Port Royal
- April 25 Blessing of the Fleet, Mt. Pleasant
- April 30 Taste of Beaufort

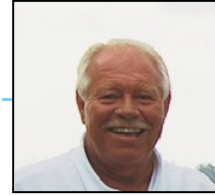
I hope this letter finds everyone well and healthy as we move into the final stages of winter. Snow in Charleston, SC...you have got to be kidding me! Last time was December 1989, if memory serves me right.

January 22-24 marked the 30th anniversary of the Tri-County Marine Trade Association's Boat Show at the Charleston Area Convention Center. I would like to offer my personal thanks to those SCMA members who contributed their time and efforts to man our booth for the 3-day event. I continue to emphasize the importance of our presence at these events. SCMA cannot afford to pass up any opportunity to enhance its visibility. I love trade shows. Every year as these show times approach, I say this is really going to eat up some quality personal time I allocate myself at the end of each work week. But, every year, the moment I step foot into that venue of lights, sounds and smells, the venue that epitomizes the very essence of my profession, I find myself instantly transformed into the kid in the candy store. There are simply too few if any other opportunities throughout the year to reconnect

with old friends and acquaintances all in one place at the same time.

In an industry that has taken more than its fair share of economic bludgeoning during this recession, everyone I spoke with remained upbeat and optimistic. In these times, that takes character and, for me, a reminder that while living a somewhat isolated existence day-to-day, I have over the years had the pleasure of meeting and knowing some of the finest people in the world. On a more disappointing note, Maritime Events has announced the cancellation of the Charleston In-Water Boat Show for the second consecutive year, a sign we still have a long road ahead of us. Manufacturing sources report that a reduction in existing inventory has some builders resuming new model production. Some floor plan financing is starting to become available. That's encouraging news but, as long as consumer credit remains tight, it will likely continue to affect discretionary spending.

Last month I reported that SCMA



Bob Pilcher

is
bullishly working on tax relief legislation. Sen. Cleary's amendment to S405 will extend the the 6% local option to quali-

fying business-owned vessels as well as individually owned vessels. This is great news but we're not through. SCMA continues to focus on across the board tax relief for all boats in the state. South Carolina still lags well behind our neighboring states in reducing taxes on recreational vehicles. We are determined to get the attention of our legislators to corrects this inequity. Over the next month we will update the membership on these issues and, at the appropriate time, ask each and every member to contact their local representative to urge them to support legislation promoting the economic growth of recreational boating in South Carolina.

My best to all and please remember my door is always open if there is anything I or the association can do to help you. We exist for you and because of you.

pilcher.marine@gmail.com

National Marina Day June 12

The SC General Assembly has declared June 12th to be National Marina Day in South Carolina, the first state in the country to do so this year. Sen. Dick Elliott introduced the resolution which was approved February 3rd. The resolution honors our state's marinas "for their contributions to the community

and to make citizens, policy-makers, and employees more aware of the overall contributions of marinas to their well-being."

National Marina Day is sponsored by the Association of Marina Industries to showcase marinas as a safe, reliable gate-

way to boating.

This year, it is also part of National Outdoors Month. SCMA will partner with AMI, the Recreational Fishing & Boating Foundation, Discover Boating and the Sea Scouts, among others, to create a major celebration at The Marina at Grande Dunes in Myrtle Beach.

MEMBER NEWS

Welcome to new individual members: Tom Swatzel, Murrells Inlet; John Schwab, Shallotte, NC; Judith Underberg, James Island; Bill Roper, Charlotte, NC; Coker Day, Aiken; Rick Trowman, Seabrook Island; and Ben Mortoque, Sumter.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

SCMA will have its display set up at two events in March and we need volunteers to help man the booth, talking about SCMA, its programs and goals, and promoting new membership.

The first event will be March 13th at the Carolina Yard Experience at the Exchange Park in Ladson. This is a "green" event with many participants. We will share our display with SC DNR and DHEC-OCRM to explain how boaters help preserve our environment and waterways through programs like the Clean Marina/Boatyard program and the Clean Vessel Act. It runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The second event is the Palmetto Sportsmen's Classic at the State Fairgrounds in Columbia March 26-28. This is the largest hunting, fishing and boating show in the state. If you've never been, this is a fun event with displays throughout the fairgrounds. Scout Boats is even lending us a "camo" runabout for our display.



Bottom-Fishing Ban

The SC Senate has adopted a resolution officially opposing a proposed federal law that would close the red snapper fisheries along our state's coastline. A similar measure is pending in the House. SCMA's Board of Directors voted to support these resolutions.

The South Atlantic Fisheries Management Council (SAFMC) is considering an amendment to the Fishery Management Plan for the snapper-grouper fishery in the South Atlantic region to help restore the red snapper population, said to be in a long-term decline. Opponents claim that not enough research has been done and that snapper is a popular, widely caught fish.

SCMA supports opposing the ban because of the adverse economic effect on the recreational boating industry. A 2006 study by the American Sportfishing Association showed that saltwater fishing here had a total economic impact of over \$1 billion,

employed nearly 12,000 people and generated over \$2 billion in salary and wages.

The proposed ban would cover about 3,500 square miles off our coast, stretching north from the Georgia border to near McClellanville.

At a time when the boating and recreational fishing businesses are hurting, any negative impact on recreational, commercial and charter boat fishermen will also hurt boat dealers, marinas, and other support businesses.

The SCDNR is a voting member of the SAFMC and two additional voting members are from South Carolina.



About Beaufort, SC
From Rion Salley at Port Royal Landing Marina

The Lowcountry's famed salt-marsh ecosystem, one of the world's most productive and unspoiled ecosystems is easy to explore from the Beaufort area. The ACE Basin is a vast wilderness created at the juncture of the Ashepoo, Combahee and Edisto rivers. Guided boat tours allow visitors to see and photograph hundreds of bird species; guided kayak tours offer a more active role in coastal discovery; and a boat rental allows independent adventurers to explore the ecosystem on their own.

Fishing, sailing, shrimping and crabbing are popular activities for Beaufort visitors. Residents are

happy to teach newcomers the tricks of the trade. Local marinas offer fishing boat rentals and can also arranged charter fishing excursions.

Port Royal's boardwalk and Hunting Island State Park's pier are among the ideal fishing venues as well as popular for sight-seeing and leisurely strolls. In addition to its unspoiled beaches, Hunting Island includes a Nature Center, miles of well-marked trails for hiking, running and cycling throughout the island and a marsh boardwalk. A 5-mile leisure trail through Port Royal includes an observation deck.

BOATU.S. PHOTO CONTEST FOR ANGLERS

BoatU.S. Angler is starting a monthly photo contest in April with two categories: saltwater fish and freshwater fish. Submit a photo of your best catch and win a \$50 BoatU.S. Visa gift card, a gift bag of fishing gear plus other prizes.

The monthly winners will be entered into a Grand Prize drawing to win a realistic replica mount of your fish from Mount This Fish. All mounts are handpainted fiberglass

replicas and can be displayed indoors or out.

For complete details and how to enter, go to:

www.BoatUSAngler.com/contest.

Boating Industry Chimes In On President's Remarks

Not only the mayor of Las Vegas was upset with President Barack Obama's speech in Nashua, NH, so was the boating industry.

The President commented that "when times are tough, you tighten your belts; you don't go buying a boat when you can barely pay your mortgage. You don't blow a bunch of cash in Las Vegas when you're trying to save for college."

NMMA President Thom Dammrich said in response, "Boats are made by middle-

class Americans for middle-class Americans. By associating buying a boat with irresponsible spending, Pres. Obama does a disservice to the very middle-class boat manufacturing communities across the U.S." He also noted that "the recreational boating industry is one of the last remaining American manufacturing businesses and net exporters, contributing nearly \$30 billion in new sales and services to our nation's economy each year."

According to NMMA, 75% of boaters have an annual house-

hold income of less than \$100,000 and 95% of boats are less than 26' in length.



SC Boatbuilder Invites Mr. Obama to Marion

Dear Representative Clyburn, Hundreds, if not thousands of your loyal and appreciative constituents in South Carolina are upset at the comments made by President Obama during his Tuesday town hall meeting in New Hampshire...Certainly we understand that Mr. Obama was trying to promote responsible spending, but unfortunately such analogies foster a negative stereotype that portrays boaters as irresponsible "fat cats". Our industry has been decimated by a crisis caused by the greed of

Wall Street and high flying bankers, and our President needs to understand the vast majority of boatbuilders and boat owners are hard working, middle class Americans that choose to be on God's great waters for their recreation.

As a leader in Congress and a very good supporter of our President, could you convince Mr. Obama to visit our plant in Marion, as you did several years back? Our team of 140 talented crafts people, earning an average wage of \$15 per hour,

would love to show him and you our new "continuous flow lean manufacturing" organization which is world class; and where today we are now building boats for export to other countries. With American manufacturing having lost millions of jobs, US boat building and boating should be encouraged, not maligned. South Carolina, home to several large builders of boats such as Sea Fox, Stingray, Scout, Key West, American Sail, Zodiac and Bénétteau and 438,000 registered boats (of an average size of less than 20 feet) is for-

The IntraCoastal Yacht Sales guys—Bobby, Doug and Ric— have found 5 o'clock somewhere!

tunate to have thousands of citizens employed in the boat business. We need every bit of help we can find to ensure we are not unduly singled out for criticism.

I will hope that you and our President will soon visit Marion and Bénétteau.

Kind regards,
Wayne Burdick, President
Bénétteau USA, Inc.

Federal Budget Skimps On ICW Dredging

The federal budget request for FY2011 only allocates \$9.3 million for the US Army Corps of Engineers to dredge the Intra-coastal Waterway through Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida. The Corps needs \$30 million to properly maintain the waterway.

The South Carolina portion is only \$900,000 with only \$490,000 for maintenance

dredging. This is far less than the \$6 million needed in our state, especially since the waterway contributes significantly to our economy. Without the needed dredging, both commercial and recreational boat traffic will decrease.

In past years, Senator Lindsay Graham and Representative Henry Brown have managed to have higher amounts than the

White House has requested put in the budget.

Please write to both Sen. Graham and Sen. Jim DeMint as well as to your US Representative, asking them to please increase the budget for the Corps to include more funds for ICW dredging.

Also consider joining the Atlantic Intra-coastal Waterway Associa-

Tion (AIWA), "The Voice of the Waterway". It promotes the continuation and further development of waterborne commerce and recreation by advocating for regular maintenance dredging and adequate maintenance to support safe, cost-effective navigation.

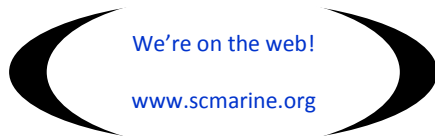
For more information:
www.atlanticintra-coastal.org
703.477.3052

West Marine/3M Respirator Training

On Thursday, February 25th, SCMA will join with West Marine and 3M for personalized sessions on using respirators safely and effectively. If you or any of your employees use respirators on the job or on home/boat projects, you should attend this.

The session will be held at the West Marine store in the St. Andrews Shopping Center on Savannah Highway in West Ashley.

For more information, contact Dwayne Schalles at dwaynes@portsupply.com or at 843.270.1745



Clean Marina Workshop

The next Clean Marina Workshop for marinas/boatyard that need to be recertified or want to start the process of becoming a Clean Marina will be on Tuesday, March 16th, in Hilton Head in the board room of the Harbourtown Yacht Club on the 3rd floor of the marina office building.

If you plan to attend or need more information on the Clean Marina/ Boatyard program, please call 843.889.0967.



FACEBOOK USERS

How do you use social media? Do you tweet? Are you using it just personally or for business as well? What sites do you find most effective? Give us your answers at SCMA's email address in the lower right corner of this page.

Susie Watson, marina manager at **Harbourgate Marina** in Myrtle Beach, says she uses Facebook to advertise marina events.

"We have used Facebook to advertise all of our local events, boat parade, tournaments etc.

This is an easy way of reaching out to our tenants and patrons of the marina."



Mission Statement:

"To promote growth of recreational boating in South Carolina and a better boating experience in order to enhance the success of marine related activities in our state through an emphasis on the boating lifestyle, awareness and professionalism through economic, environmental, legislative and educational efforts."

SCMA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Bob Pilcher, 843.860.6443, picher.marine@gmail.com

Vice President Stan Jones, Lighthouse Marina, 803.749.1554
info@lighthousemarinasc.com

Secretary Dwayne Schalles, Port Supply.843.270.1745
dwaynes@portsupply.com

Treasurer Rion Salley, Port Royal Landing Marina, 843.525.6664
rion@portroyallandingmarina.net

Ex Officio Rick Griffin, CMM, Downtown Marina, 843.524.4422
downtwnmarina@islc.net

Stewart Altman, Marshall's Marine, 843.588.2091
stewart@marshallsmarine.com

Jeff Boger, Berry-Boger Yacht Sales, 843.249.6167
jeff@bbyacht.com

Sherry Harrelson, Osprey Marina, 843.215.5353
smiley1@sc.rr.com

Bryan Smith, Wacca Wache Marina, 843.651.2994
dockmaster@wwmarina.com

Bob Strickland, Marina at Grande Dunes, 843.315.7777
bob.strickland@bccompanies.com

Alternate Jack Walker, GEL, 843.769.7378 JTW@GEL.com

South Carolina Marine Association

Suzi DuRant, Executive Director

P.O. Box 12187

Charleston, SC 29422

843.889.9067

843.889.3672 fax

www.scmarine.org

SCMarineAssn@gmail.com