



## South Carolina Marine Association

# CURRENTS

## May 2010

### CALENDAR

May 26-29 43rd Annual Georgetown Blue Marlin Tournament

May 31 National Memorial Day

June 1 Hurricane season starts

June 4-5 Sun Fun Festival, Myrtle Beach

June 5 Lowcountry Splash, Charleston

June 5-6 Folly Beach Wahine Classic

June 11-13 Grand Strand Sports & Fishing Festival

June 12 National Marina Day, Marina at Grande Dunes

June 14 Flag Day; SCMA Board of Directors Meeting, Charleston

June 20 Father's Day

June 23-26 Carolina Billfish Classic

July 3 Independence Celebration Boat Parade on Lake Murray

July 4 Independence Day, Murrells Inlet Boat Parade

July 7-10 MegaDock Billfish Tournament, Charleston

July 12 SCMA Board Meeting

July 16-25 Beaufort Water Festival

July 28-31 Edisto Marina Billfish

### MEMBER NEWS

Welcome to new individual member Tripp Fellabom, Mt. Pleasant; and a return to professional membership by Charleston Harbor Resort & Marina.

Bénéteau USA recently held a Family Day to celebrate the company's commitment to "our employees-first-culture". Over 400 attended. The 25-year old factory has now been transformed into "a modern, world-class, continuous flow, single-line, lean manufacturing facility," said Wayne Burdick.

### FROM THE PRESIDENT — BOB PILCHER

Just about everyone who knows me would tell you I am seldom at a loss for words. This month, I will attempt to dispel this by keeping things very brief. Two subjects...okay, maybe three.

June 12th is designated as National Marina Day. The Association of Marina Industries and the Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation have selected South Carolina as one of only ten sponsoring states for this event. There has been a recent change in venue and you will find current information on this event in the newsletter. I want to take this opportunity to thank Susie Watson, Manager of Harbourgate Marina & Resort in N. Myrtle Beach ([www.harbourgatemarina.com](http://www.harbourgatemarina.com)) for offering to become the sponsoring marina for this event in SC. This is a great time of year to visit Myrtle Beach so why not mark your calendar, make yourself a reservation and treat yourself and your family to a mini-vacation on the Grand Strand!?!

SECOND ITEM—someone told me that when you capitalize all the letters in a word, it's tantamount to shouting which is rude. Well, there ya go! Every month I try to impress upon the members the importance of keeping SCMA solvent. To that end, we have created a Trade Member survey which you will find enclosed in this month's newsletter. It's also posted on the website. Great efforts have been made to make this a quick and painless process. All you will need is a pen and less than 10 minutes of your time. We have already addressed and stamped the survey

card so please take a minute to complete this and drop it in your outgoing mail bin. You do not need to sign it or include your company name. To maintain confidentiality, each card is encoded with a numerical identification.



In considering ways to increase our membership, we are contemplating a number of member incentive programs and need your input. Again, please complete and return this as soon as possible. Money is tight so let's make this a worthwhile expenditure by your association.

Finally, the season appears to have kicked off to a pretty good start. I have seen considerably more activity on the water this year compared to this same period last year. I want to remind all of our members to remind their customers to boat safely and, when on the water, use alcohol in moderation. Let's all work to make South Carolina a zero boating fatality state.

As Maritime Professionals, we are stewards of our industry. Our future does not lie in the hands of Lawmakers or Regulators unless we allow it. Remember, there is strength in numbers. In closing, I'd like to paraphrase a quote I have always found quite profound, "There will be two dates on your tombstone your friends will see but the hyphen between them is how you'll be remembered."

God Bless and Safe Boating!

### LEGISLATIVE NEWS

In Columbia, the House Property Tax Subcommittee never held a hearing on S405, the bill to clarify the boat tax situs language. Instead, it reported it directly to the floor of let boats owned by limited liability corporations apply for either the second home qualification or the reduced appraisal rate. The bill must now go to a House-Senate Conference committee to work out the differences.

In Washington, the Senate passed S3217, the Financial Reform bill without the Brownback Amendment that would have exempted automobile, RV and boat dealers from the Consumer Financial Protection Agency. However, on June 24th, the Senate voted on the Brownback Amendment "to instruct", meaning he can instruct the members of the House-Senate Conference Committee to include the language in his

amendment. The House-passed bill contains an exemption only for car dealers.

NMMA is monitoring this closely and will release the names of the conferees. If any SC legislators are named to the committee, please contact them asking them to support the Senate version with the Brownback amendment.

**BOAT. FISH. LIVE. At NATIONAL MARINA DAY JUNE 12th**

South Carolina has been picked along with nine other states to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of National Marina Day.

SCMA is working with Harbourgate Marina to plan a great day for boaters and those who think they might want to become boaters. There will be boat demo rides provided by Beneteau, Cape Romain Marine, and Marshall's Marine as well as tours of boats from Berry-Boger Yachts.

There will be informational booths for SCDNR, the Coast Guard Auxiliary, and local Power Squadrons, along with activities for the kids, as well as many other exhibitors to help you get started boating

or to improve your boating lifestyle.

If you would like to participate as an exhibitor (there is no charge; you just have to send us proof of insurance), please contact either Susie Watson at Harbourgate Marina (Susie@harbourgatemarina.com or 843.249-8888) or Suzi DuRant at SCMA (SCMarineAssn@gmail.com or 843.889.9067).

We do have the Sea Scouts helping us but we could use some more volunteers, especially in the SCMA booth. If you are an SCMA member but can't attend, please send brochures or other literature about your company to the SCMA office.



**NOLAN BIOLABS OFFERS OIL SPILL ASSISTANCE**

SCMA member Nolan BioLabs has been in touch with Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindhal and the Mayor of Grande Isle, LA, offering assistance in dealing with the Gulf oil spill. Founder Barbara Nolan expressed concern over "the unfolding ecological and environmental disaster in the Gulf of Mexico." She offered her company's "expertise and aptitude to help solve this problem through simple, safe and cost-effective bioremediation."

All of Nolan's EPA-approved bacterial-based products are custom engineered to solve specific problems with on-site consultation.

**Advertising Opportunities**

Don't forget that members can advertise through **PATRON ADS** on SCMA's website for only \$25 per month. Your name and link to your website will appear on each page of the site. Call or email the

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

Volunteers are needed at Harbourgate Marine in the SCMA booth on June 12th from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Volunteers are needed in the SCMA booth at the Carolina Billfish Classic, June 23-26, in Charleston.

**SCMA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**President Bob Pilcher**, 843.860.6443, Pilcher Marine, pilcher.marine@gmail.com

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

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**Executive Director Suzi DuRant**