NMPA Annual Convention Adds New Feature with HydroComp Propeller School

The National Marine Propeller Association, as the leading trade group representing the recreational marine propeller repairers and manufacturers, will host its Annual Convention November 10 – 12, 2016 in Las Vegas, Nevada. The Convention, currently in its twenty fourth year, will focus on the latest industry trends in technology, products, information and best management practices with scheduled session and Convention floor exhibitions by industry product and service providers.

Additionally, on the November 10th registration day, a first-of-its-kind half-day version of HydroComp’s “Propeller School” has been developed especially for NMPA Convention attendees. Donald MacPherson, HydroComp’s Technical Director, will lead a unique four-hour learning opportunity for those involved in the sale or repair of marine propellers, covering topics such as the basics of propeller operation as part of the larger propulsion system, introduction to how propeller hydrodynamics really work, and troubleshooting common problems - what is – and is not

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Propeller Design & Race Concept Becomes Part of Youth High School Summer Camp Program

A n idea that was once a way for NMPA members to have some fun at the association’s Annual Convention has become popular at South Florida’s Marine Industry Day, and a important part of Marine Industry Immersion Summer Camp organized by the Marine industry Cares Foundation - a Fort Lauderdale, Florida based non-profit group whose focus is helping children and families in need. For the second consecutive year employees from Frank & Jimmie’s Propeller Shop led by company President & COO Don MacRae volunteered their time to teach groups of high school boys and girls

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The summer of 2016 certainly has been an active year in the marine markets. The hot weather has encouraged all kinds of activity. I hope this newsletter finds you and your business benefitting from this market.

The busy season for the propeller industry highlights the importance of technical organizations like the National Marine Propeller Association. When you are busy, you do not have the time and resources to search out improvements, equipment, and experts within the propeller repair industry. With the NMPA you already have this access to new techniques, equipment suppliers, and propeller manufacturers. The NMPA even brings all these aspects of your business together every year in one place for one event. This year that event, our annual convention, will be in Las Vegas November 10-12. Now is the time to be making your Convention plans. A few of the current session topics on this year’s agenda include:

• Polishing Stainless Steel – Steps for a Quicker Shine
• Effective Propeller Shop Management II
• Prop Modifications/Lab Finishing/Prop Slip
• Small Shops Can Use Big Shop Strategies for Efficiency and Profitability
• A Comprehensive Yet Understandable Explanation of Prop Slip – What Do the Numbers Mean?

The 2016 NMPA is moving with renewed vigor. Use your membership in this organization as a business opportunity. Get your certification, join webinars, learn about new techniques and new products, in general the NMPA helps you stay connected and know what is going on in the propeller repair market.

You can also always get more involved in your association by joining the Board of Directors. Nominations are now being accepted for candidates to be voted on at our annual membership meeting at the convention. If interested in running for one of the four open positions on the board, you must be a member in good standing and hold at least one NMPA certification. Interested candidates can submit their written statement to stand for election to me directly at dave.dewitt@mercmarine.com.

As always, the NMPA Board of Directors welcomes your comments and suggestions for improving our organization. I encourage you to join in online forums, mark your calendar for upcoming NMPA events, join a webinar, get certified, and come chat with us at this year’s convention in Vegas! Finish 2016 strong and get a leg up on your 2017 business.

I look forward to seeing you at this year’s convention.

Dave Dewitt
President, NMPA Board of Directors
Convention to Serve as Venue for Networking, Business and Knowledge Improvement

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“2016 has been a busy, and by early indications, a successful year in the marine industry’s propeller sector and the positive news is motivation for NMPA to once again produce a great Convention for our members to reconnect, learn about the latest happenings in our industry. The Convention has proven itself as a good venue for manufacturers, product and service providers to network, and showcase the latest of their products to the industry,” said NMPA president David De Witt.

Topics on this year’s Convention agenda include a follow-up session to the popular 2015 presentation on business and operations efficiency/best management practices along with presentations on welding techniques, tooling, use of technology in the propeller repair shop, prop slip and on subjects such as abrasives and polishing. Confirmed sponsors and exhibitors at this year’s Convention include Mercury Propellers/Quicksilver Propellers, Acme Propellers, Clubine Manufacturing, Linden


Registration is open online at nmpra.net, or by downloading and submitting the Convention Registration form. All members are encouraged to attend. For more information call the NMPA office at 954-880-3588 or send an email to info@nmpra.net.

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Just When I Thought I’d Seen it All

BY LARRY KINDBERG, ACCUTECH MARINE PROPELLER

Everyone of us can relate to a time when a customer walks out of the shop and you just stand there in amazement, scratching your head, wondering where the thought process short circuited.

You have to love it when a boat owner walks in and begins the conversation with: “a guy down on the dock has the same boat as mine and he goes faster than me! I need a bigger prop for my boat!” Of course, when you delve a little deeper into the story, you find that your customer has a 26’ SeaRay with a single IO and the guy on the dock has a 32’ Monterey inboard with bigger engines. Not quite the “same” boat.

We have also had the guy that bought a new manganese bronze propeller two seasons ago and he brings it in all demetalized and the prop needs to be replaced. Heart attack time! “It’s bad metal...you owe me a new prop!” I gently remind him of our discussion two years ago that manganese bronze is about the crappiest metal to use in salt water due to the zinc content. “You never told me that!” Then I pull out the disclaimer that he signed indicating that we had that discussion.

Of course there is the new boat owner that comes in after he got the “deal of a lifetime” from his friend that sold him a boat. “This was such a great deal...it has one new engine and the other is like new.” The props of course, tell a different story. Further questioning reveals that he cannot synchronize the engines and the boat runs in circles?!?! Ok....what gives? The port engine is a 4200RPM unit and the starboard, (the new engine) is a 5000RPM unit using the old gear ratio! So, I asked him who performed the survey? “Survey...what’s that?” was the reply. After a lengthy discussion, he rationalized that he would only run the boat on the new engine.

Another new boat owner comes in with his wife. Very nice couple, but no clue about boats. No one explained all of the costs associated with boat ownership. Clearly, they bought a boat for which they were not financially prepared. They needed a new set of 28” diameter props and when presented with the price....well, guess the rest! They decided to shop eBay. After advising what to look for and that they should make sure that if the props were not as represented, they could return them for a full refund. About two weeks later, they returned with a shiny set of used, “reconditioned, like new, never damaged” hot off eBay, deal of the lifetime props. They looked great! Put them on the MRI...they had clearly been heavily damaged and improperly repaired. Surprise!...Surprise! Blades out of position, no two blades had the same pitch, no two blades had the same length! The balance was over 50g on the heavy blade. “But, I was told that they were tuned to Class 1! Here are the scans!” said the husband. Obviously, the scans had been cheated and the couple wound up with an education they had not expected. Then I dropped the “bomb”! “Send them back and get your $2,500 refund and we will order you a new set of correct props”. Long pause...silence...face turning pale...I said to the husband: “you can send them back for a refund as I had advised, can’t you?” (I knew the answer!) If the wife could have picked up one of the props, her husband would have had it as a permanent addition to his body!

Now I saved the best for last, and it is a perfect example of the importance of taking both the NMPA Certification and attending the training seminars at the Convention seriously. A long time customer who is a commercial fisherman, brought his 30” nibral propeller in for servicing. He and his friends keep their boats in an

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Propeller Design & Race Event Now a STEM Youth Program

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about prop design and performance concepts and to inspire them to dream about careers in the recreational marine industry. In just a few hours with the help of an in-class presentation, instructional booklets and hands-on guidance the camper created propellers from a 2’ square piece of sheet metal that were not only well designed, but performing beyond expectations. “It was cool to see the kids processing the information about right-turning and left-turning propellers and things like the number of blades and angle of the blades,” said MacRae. “They not only used the templates designs we provided in the booklets, but also used their smartphones to find and create their own templates. They had fun seeing how their propellers performed on the small remote control race boats and they learned a great deal about what works and doesn’t work when it comes to propeller design,” the Frank & Jimmie’s Prop Shop executive added.

The introduction of the program at the camps is part of an effort by Frank & Jimmies Props and the NMPA to help develop the future of the industry by introducing youth to this often neglected special segment of the recreational marine industry. Dave DeWitt NMPA president said, “The program has evolved from a recreational event at the Convention to a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math program that we can use to introduce youth to our industry. Frank & Jimmie’s is spearheading the initiative in Florida and plans are to bring it back to the Convention to show our members how they too can help introduce youth to the propeller industry.”

On Friday November 11th a Happy Hour is scheduled and attendees will get a chance see the program and participate in a demonstration of the propeller design and racing initiative.

Frank & Jimmie’s Don MacRae helps students with their propeller designs at marine industry summer camp in FL
electrically “hot” area which results in significant electrolysis damage on a regular basis. The props are repairable as nibral welds nicely. This time the customer waited a little too long and the damage was more extensive. We were able to effect the repair, however, it was quite time consuming. He was not happy with the bill although it was quite fair. He stormed off stating that he was going to do business elsewhere in the future. This was in the spring of 2015. After returning from vacation in November that same year, I noticed the 30” prop that had just come in for service. I was amazed at what I saw! Someone had welded “dams” across the suction side of all of the blades! After speaking with the customer, the full story emerged. Since he was upset with my previous repair price, he did in fact take his prop to another shop. He was told that his problem was not electrolysis but cavitation. He was told the solution was to weld dams across the suction side of the blades which would eliminate his recurring problem. He was also told that his performance would improve. As one can imagine, the prop ran like it had 100yds of lobster wire wrapped around it! Speed dropped significantly and vibration was unbearable. The blades were warped from the heat from welding and the prop was out of balance. This was such a great idea, that the non-NMPA shop also performed this modification on props for his other two buddies as well.

NMPA membership is extremely important for propeller shops because it provides a tremendous amount of learning opportunities and experiences. Attending the Convention and taking part in training will enhance a shop’s business and reputation. Educating technicians and the boating public about proper propeller repair is definitely a win-win for all!
MEMBER & MARINE INDUSTRY NEWS BRIEFS...

October 7, 2016 is Manufacturing Day

Manufacturing Day is October 7, 2016. It is a nationwide celebration of modern manufacturing organized by the Fabricators & Manufacturers Association, International (FMA), a professional organization with more than 2,500 individual and company members working together to improve the metal forming and fabricating industry; The National Association of Manufacturers, the preeminent U.S. manufacturers association as well as the nation’s largest industrial trade association, representing small and large manufacturers in every industrial sector and in all 50 states; by the Manufacturing Extension Partnership - a part of the Department of Commerce’s National Institute of Standards, and a network of public/private partners across the country that works with small and mid-sized U.S. manufacturers to create and retain jobs, increase profits, save time and money, develop new customers, and expand into new markets; and the Manufacturing Institute a 501(c)3 affiliate of the National Association of Manufacturers and a non-partisan organization committed to delivering leading-edge information and services to the nation’s manufacturers.

The celebration will be comprised of a series of hosted events around the country, and is billed as a chance to highlight the economic significance of marine manufacturing in the U.S. October 7 marks the fifth annual Manufacturing Day and thousands of manufacturers will again host students, teachers, parents, job seekers and community leaders at open houses, plant tours and educational sessions to showcase modern manufacturing technology and the cool jobs available. It is a chance for students to see the diverse career options that are innovative, impactful and durable. In 2015, more than 2,600 live events were attended by more than 225,000 students and 55,000 parents, educators, job seekers and others.

NMPA members, both manufacturers and repairers are encouraged to visit the Manufacturer’s Day www.mfgday.com for more information. There is useful information about scholarships to help young people interested in various related technical and manufacturing fields of study. NMPA members who choose to participate in the MFG Day are asked to also send an email to the NMPA office at info@nmpa.net so we can share the news and help you celebrate.

In Memory of Randal L Hale Jr.

Randy grew up in Essex where he lived a storybook life on the water. After graduating from Valley Regional High School Randy moved to Baltimore where he met and married Elizabeth Supi Hale, his wife and best friend for more than 50 years. Randy was a brilliant man who could do anything. He had many careers and hobbies. He was one of the youngest people to earn an Amateur Radio operators license. As a young man Randy worked as a ski patrol. Randy was an avid boater/sailor and small plane pilot. He served in the Army during the Vietnam Era. Randy had a long career in radiology that included all aspects of the field. His hobbies included magic and slight of hand. Randy loved music especially Irish music and Sea shanties. He had a nac for picking up most stringed instruments. Randy held a Master Mariners Ticket and worked for a local tour boat company. He recently joined the Haddam Volunteer Fire Company, as with all his interests, Randy jumped in with both feet. Randy owned Hale Propeller in Old Saybrook with his son Randy III.

Randal was a huge presence that will be truly missed by many. He is survived by his loving wife, Elizabeth, his son Randal Lewis Hale III (Margaret), his daughter Celeste Hale Pettyjohn (Scott), grandchildren Jordan Sommer Pettyjohn, Skylar Elizabeth Hale, Randall Patrick Hale, Jason R. Pettyjohn (Tara), Melissa S. Pettyjohn, and great-grandsons Tanner and Chase Pettyjohn, Brother Robert Hale Sr. (Pauline), sister Cheryl Hale (Robert), scores of in-laws, nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents Randal L. Hale Sr., Doris Dimock Hale, and his sister Edith Grotta.

A Catholic service for family and close friends was held at Swan Funeral Home in Old Saybrook, on Monday July 25th. A public service to include out of town family and friends will be held in mid September. In lieu of flowers donations may be made in Randy’s name to the Valley Shore Animal Welfare League in Westbrook, Old Saybrook Fire or Police K9, or Haddam Volunteer Fire Co.

Yamaha Marine Changes Name of Propeller Business to Yamaha Marine Precision Propellers, Inc.

Yamaha Marine Group announced today the renaming of its wholly owned subsidiary Precision Propellers Industries to Yamaha Marine Precision Propellers and discontinuing production of non-Yamaha branded propellers.

Yamaha purchased Indianapolis-based Precision Propellers Industries in 2008 to better serve customers with stainless-steel propellers for an ever-increasing number of new boat/motor applications. The purchase strengthened production capacity and helped ensure high-quality propellers for Yamaha Outboards, while fostering continued growth for the brand.

Since then, Yamaha Marine has experienced double-digit growth in propeller demand year-over-year due to advances in propeller technology and performance enhancements such as its Shift Dampener System, the company said.

As a result, Yamaha Marine has added personnel, equipment, and expanded shifts as it continues to monitor propeller trends. “Today, more than ever, we are focused on meeting the demands of Yamaha customers, so the time was right to change the name of the plant to reflect that direction,”
Membership Dues Renewal, Sept. 1st
Association Needs You Back and Your Help to Grow

BY GORDON CONNELL, MANAGING DIRECTOR, NMPA

Thank you to all those members who have already renewed their dues for the coming year that starts on September 1st. Your support and commitment to the effort to make this industry stronger is appreciated. For the past 18 months NMPA has been on a rebuilding path. You’ve recognized the changes and taken the opportunity to mention when we speak, so thank you. Your Board of Directors is committed to ensuring NMPA is providing benefits and value to you and so am I.

You however do have a role to play beyond just paying dues. Your input is valuable and needed. Call or email me or any Board member with ideas for new programs, or to offer your help. Encourage those prop shops in your area who aren’t members to join. You give the best recommendations. And finally, with nearly 150 members in NMPA, I would like to see more than 100 companies and 200 people in Vegas, so I say... attend the Annual Convention!