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## **ABBRA Doubles Content at Annual Summer Symposium**

*Second annual ABBRA event presents awards and increases content hours*

Warren, Rhode Island—The American Boat Builders & Repairers Association (ABBRA) Summer Symposium has been touted as highly successful by ABBRA staff, conference participants, and sponsors after concluding Tuesday evening in Mystic Seaport in Connecticut.

This year we aimed to provide attendees with more value—in fact we doubled the number of content sessions during the two-day event, and increased our attendance. The ABBRA spirit for sharing information was well received.” Doug Domenie, ABBRA president, says. Topics at the second annual ABBRA Symposium included how to improve sales, business development, and customer service as well as tips on identifying and recruiting top talent and predictions and trends from the National Weather Service. Finally, participants received an update on ethanol and biofuels and attended a panel on the state of the industry with various association directors.

According to ABBRA staff, feedback from attendees and sponsors revealed that many were particularly engaged during a session on litigation in the marine industry as presented by Dennis Nixon on Monday evening. Also, a presentation on the proposed ban on copper paint presented by Scott Townsend and John Pazdera on Tuesday morning received high marks.

“The first day of the Symposium ended with a beautiful sunset dinner where we honored this year’s ABBRA award recipients,” says Domenie. The three annual ABBRA awards included:

- The Dennis Snow President’s Award—given annually to the individual or organization that makes a significant and lasting contribution to improving the state of the boatyard industry—presented to Dennis Nixon, Associate Dean for Research and Administration at the Graduate School of Oceanography of the University of Rhode Island.
- The Award of Excellence in Customer Care presented to Camachee Yacht Yard, a full-service boatyard located in St. Augustine, Florida.
- ABBRA’s Award of Excellence, or “Boatyard of the Year,” presented to Newport Shipyard located in Newport Harbor, Rhode Island.

The Symposium—sponsored by Interlux Yacht Finishes, Awlgrip North America, Professional BoatBuilder magazine, Pier Vantage, Valvtect and Starkweather & Shepley Insurance—concluded with private tours of four New England boat building and repair facilities: Dodson Boatyard, Mystic Shipyard, Mystic Seaport, and Noank Village Boatyard.

The American Boat Builders and Repairers Association (ABBRA), founded in 1943, strengthens and encourages professionalism in the boat building and marine service industry by providing its members with timely information, training, education and business services.

**ABBRA: Dedicated to the Marine Service and Repair Industry.**

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