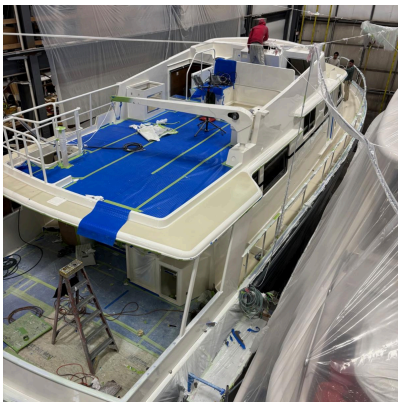




CAPSTAN- VOL. VII | August 2026

Industry News



Featured Video: Go behind the scenes at Safe Harbor Front Street as the team tackles extensive corrosion repairs and a full deck repaint aboard the Ray Hunt-designed 70-foot NIGHT WATCH. The video also features insights from Juan Carlos España of Peake Coating, a featured speaker at ABBRA's 2025 IBEX seminar, The Perils of Paint.

[Watch the full video here.](#)

Historic War of 1812 Ship Returns Home After Major Restoration-- After nearly a year of restoration at Bristol Marine's Samples Shipyard in Boothbay Harbor, Maine, the historic U.S. Brig Niagara has been relaunched and is preparing to return to its home port in Erie, Pennsylvania. Bristol Marine's skilled shipwrights completed extensive structural repairs, hull and deck restoration, and critical systems upgrades to preserve the iconic vessel for future generations. Once back on Lake Erie, Niagara will resume its role as a sail training vessel and floating museum, helping celebrate America's 250th anniversary while preserving traditional maritime craftsmanship. [Read the full article here.](#)

ABBRA Brings Boatyard Expertise to IBEX-- As the voice of the boatbuilding, repair, and refit industry, ABBRA is bringing valuable real-world expertise to this year's IBEX



education program. Drawing on the firsthand experience of boatyard owners, managers, and marine professionals, ABBRA is producing four educational seminars focused on the industry's most pressing operational and business challenges. Session topics include managing complex refits, overcoming boatyard management challenges, improving profitability through smarter pricing and scheduling, and modernizing legacy vessels with today's technology. Attendees will gain practical strategies they can immediately apply to their own operations. [Click here to read the full article.](#)

At Port Of Egypt (Southold, NY), Craftsmanship Begins With The People Behind It. At Port of Egypt, craftsmanship has never been confined to the workbench. It's found in the way customers are welcomed by name. In the familiarity between technicians, staff, and boaters who return season after season. And in the quiet consistency of a team that treats every boat—and every customer—as if they were their own. For Business Development Manager Yvonne Lieblein and Parts Manager Jen Curtin, that standard has always been rooted in something deeper than process. It's personal.

Jen, known affectionately around the yard as the “mother hen,” has long been at the center of that experience—guiding customers, supporting the team, and ensuring that nothing, and no one, is overlooked. Her role extends well beyond parts and service. It's a steady presence that shapes how the yard operates day to day.

“That's just how it's always been here,” Lieblein says. “There's a responsibility to the customer—but also to each other.” That sense of care is what has defined Port of Egypt for generations. And it's what carries forward as the yard enters its next chapter with Hinckley. The same team remains. The same relationships endure. The same standard of attentiveness continues to guide every interaction. What changes is the depth of support behind it. In the seasons ahead, Port of Egypt will be strengthened by Hinckley's broader service network—bringing expanded technical capabilities to the North Fork, including experienced diesel technicians and enhanced mechanical support. A new heated indoor storage facility, arriving this fall, will introduce climate-controlled protection designed to extend the life and readiness of each vessel, season after season.

These additions are not a shift in identity, but a reinforcement of it—extending what the yard has always done well. Set along the protected waters of Peconic Bay, just minutes from Shelter Island and within easy reach of Sag Harbor and the wider East End, Port of Egypt remains a natural waypoint for boaters moving between harbors, anchorages, and open water. It's a place defined as much by its setting as by its rhythm—early departures, late returns, and a team that understands both without needing to be told.

For longtime Port of Egypt customers, this next chapter feels familiar—because it is. For Hinckley customers, it offers something equally compelling: a yard where craftsmanship is measured not only in the precision of the work, but in the consistency of the experience behind it.

A place where every vessel is cared for to a singular standard—supported by a team that knows the difference.

Join the **ABBRA** Member Forum on LinkedIn and Facebook

Connect. Collaborate. Learn.



An **exclusive** space for ABBRA members to network, ask questions, share challenges, and exchange real-world insights across the boatyard, boat building, repair, and service industries.

-  Peer-driven discussions
-  Practical industry insights
-  Share lessons learned
-  Ask questions & get real answers
-  Connect with fellow professionals

Join today

This private group is exclusively for current ABBRA members.

We encourage respectful, constructive conversations focused on boatyard operations, vessel construction, repair, and service work.

Facebook Forum

LinkedIn Forum

Building Stronger Connections Across the ABBRA Network

To strengthen our community and highlight the collaboration that drives the success of the marine industry, **ABBRA** is facilitating membership socials at the **Newport International Boat Show** and **IBEX**.

We held our first socials in 2025 at both locations, welcoming approximately 25–30 attendees at each. These **casual, connection-focused gatherings** are open to both members and non-members, while our **private online forums** offer ABBRA members a space **to ask questions, share insights, and learn from one another**. Together, these opportunities make it easier than ever to **connect, collaborate, and grow your network** within the industry.

A special thank you to our event sponsors for making these gatherings possible. The Newport International Boat Show Membership Social is generously sponsored by **Starkweather & Shepley Insurance Brokerage** and **Great American Insurance Group**, while the IBEX Membership Social is generously sponsored by **Starkweather & Shepley Insurance Brokerage**. Their continued support helps ABBRA foster meaningful connections throughout the marine industry.

We would love for you to join us again this year!

SAVE-THE-DATE

ABBRA Membership Social, Newport International Boat Show 2026

September 16, 2026, 5-7 p.m. *The Reef, Newport, RI*
Sponsored by Starkweather & Shepley Insurance Brokerage & Great American Insurance Group

ABBRA Membership Social, IBEX 2026

October 6, 2026, 5-7 p.m. American Bar & Kitchen, Tampa, FL
Sponsored by Starkweather & Shepley Insurance Brokerage



ABBRAGARD

ABBRAGARD is ABBRA's exclusive insurance program for boatyards, marinas, and marine service providers, administered by Starkweather & Shepley. It offers comprehensive, marine-specific coverage along with proactive risk management and loss-control support.

Members benefit from tailored coverage, potential premium credits through ABBRA training, and access to expertise designed for marine operations of all sizes.

[Learn more about our member referral program and FREE audit.](#)

Welcome New ABBRA Members!

Please join us in welcoming our newest members to the ABBRA community!
We're excited to have the following organizations join our network of dedicated marine service professionals.



ROBERT ALLEN LAW
THE YACHT LAWYERS



Why Join ABBRA?

The American Boat Builders & Repairers Association (ABBRA) is the only national trade association dedicated to boatyards, repairers, and marine service professionals.

Membership connects you to a powerful network, exclusive training, and industry leadership opportunities.

Membership Benefits

Professional Growth & Training

- Exclusive access to ABBRA's flagship training, the Marine Service Manager Course™, plus technical seminars and leadership workshops.
- Learn from industry experts in maritime law, HR, safety compliance, financial management, estimating, and service recovery.

Networking & Peer Community

- Connect with a national network of boatyard owners, repairers, suppliers, and service professionals.
- Share best practices, problem-solve challenges, and collaborate with peers who understand your business.

Advocacy & Industry Voice

- ABBRA represents your interests on issues that impact the marine trades.
- Stay informed on regulations, environmental standards, and workforce development initiatives.

Member Discounts

- Significant savings on industry training and events.
- For example: the Marine Service Manager Course is \$200 less for members (\$1,395 vs \$1,595).
- Membership often pays for itself in training discounts alone.

Credibility & Recognition

- Build your reputation with ABBRA certifications and professional standards.
- Demonstrate your commitment to excellence and best practices to customers, employees, and partners.

Join ABBRA Today!



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contact us at info@abbra.org*

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