



The Lighthouse

Preparation begins for boat show

The Southwest International Boat Show, the largest in-water boat show in the southwest, and the premier sail and power show for new and pre-owned vessels, will take the stage April 12-15 at South Shore Harbour Marina.

The show will again feature an impressive array of free, with admission, hourly educational and entertaining seminar presentations. Seminar highlights include:

- Women on the water (ladies only)
- Selection and care of your sails
- Diesel engine maintenance
- Docking for couples
- Galveston area destinations of interest to boaters
- Flower Gardens Banks National Park Sanctuary
- Galveston Bay fishing
- Basic coastal navigation
- U.S. Coast Guard vessel traffic

— Member reminder —

As we all prepare for the Southwest International Boat Show, April 12-15, remember you will be affected.

The parking lot will be fenced off and closed Saturday, April 7 and reopening Wednesday, April 18. Be sure to have your vehicle out of that area by Saturday, April 7. Parking will be available for marina members in the underground parking, and the lot at the northwest end of the marina, between piers 1 and 4. Remember to hang your Tenant Parking Permit from the rear view mirror. Boat owners who will be required to move their boat will receive notification directly from the marina office as to when you will have to move and where and when you can return. Tenants will receive a discount at the gate with member ID.

service and Galveston Bay

- Sailing in the British Virgin Islands
- Introduction of “Catfish Bubblegum”

All seminars will be held at the South Shore Harbour Resort and are

hosted by technical experts, industry professionals and well-seasoned sailors.

Whether you are a seasoned skipper or just learning the ropes of your new passion — there is a seminar for you at the show.

Problem solving marine products

Courtesy boatus.com

by Mark Corke

The latest gadgets, gizmos, and goodies to help you more fully enjoy your time on the water.

Sole searching

Some boat shoes may be okay for the yacht club, but don't fair so well onboard. A proper pair of boat shoes must offer sure-footed support on a wet, slippery dock or boat deck. Sebago's Cyphon range could be just the thing. Available in a range of styles and colors for both men and women, the grippy soles are made from a nonmarking compound. In addition, the shoes' C3 Technology (cross chan-

nel circulation, a fancy way of saying that they let water out and air in) means you won't be walking around in soggy shoes all day once you get back to dry land. The Cyphon SeaSport and SeaTech models look similar to sneakers, while Sea Fishermen look more like sandals, have large holes in the uppers, and are a good choice for kayakers and paddleboarders. Prices start at \$79.99 | sebago.com.

Hassle-free trailer moving

Maneuvering a boat trailer takes some skill, but what if there's no room to get the tow vehicle to where you need to

Punch lines, fast boats

Courtesy *boatus.com*
by Rich Armstrong

Among the rites of passage among American men of a certain age, especially the smart-alecky ones, was growing up reading *MAD*, the wickedly funny satirical magazine still publishing after 65 years.

Dick DeBartolo holds the distinction of having his writing included in every issue dating back to 1966, earning him the comedic title of *MAD's Maddest Writer*. You also may know him as the *Giz Wiz* gadget guy on TV, and he initially made a name for himself writing the humorous, evocative questions for the popular celebrity panel TV game show *Match Game*.

"Just do the things you want to do is my philosophy," he says. "I've had good-paying jobs that weren't fun, and I left them."

Born in Brooklyn, New York, he moved across the East River to Manhattan and never left. Funny by nature and searching for a career, he submitted a satirical TV commercial script to the New York City-published *MAD*, which he enjoyed reading. To his surprise, it was accepted and DeBartolo had his career, which he merrily continues today at age 71.

"I always try to get involved in

MAD humor writer Dick DeBartolo enjoys both

things I really love — like boating," he says. "In the mid-1960s, I moved to Manhattan's Upper West Side. I used to walk along the Hudson River and I loved looking at the boats, even though I knew nothing about boats."

Although this city boy has never owned a car or even had a driver's license, he's now the proud owner of his 26th boat.

"I started with an 18-foot boat, which had a 225-hp stern drive and went 52 miles per hour," he recalls. "On my first trip, I tried running it at full throttle, and at that point I was hooked on fast boats."

With his new found love of fast boats, DeBartolo pitched another magazine he liked, *Powerboat*, which is all about fast powerboats. The publication accepted him, and he had a second career writing about boats, which he did for 42 years, until the magazine ceased publication in 2011.

A lifelong New Yorker who boats regularly is a bit of an anomaly in

More DeBartolo, page 5

Humor for the day . . .

A sailor meets a pirate in a bar, and they take turns recounting their adventures at sea. Noting the pirate's peg-leg, hook and eye patch.

The sailor asks "So, how did you end up with the peg-leg?"

The pirate replies "We was caught in a monster storm off the cape and a giant wave swept me overboard. Just as they were pullin' me out, a school of sharks appeared and one of 'em bit me leg off."

"Blimey!" said the sailor. "What about the hook?"

"Ahhhh," mused the pirate, "We were boardin' a trader ship, pistols blastin' and swords swingin' this way and that. In the fracas me hand got chopped off."

"Zounds!" remarked the sailor. "And how came ye by the eye patch?"

"A seagull droppin' fell into me eye," answered the pirate.

"You lost your eye to a seagull dropping?" the sailor asked incredulously.

"Well. . ." said the pirate, ". . . it was me first day with the hook."



The Lighthouse

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Marine products

continued from page 1

move your boat, like in your backyard? Parkit360's Force 5K power dolly could be the answer. Capable of shifting a combined weight of up to 5,000 pounds, power comes from a 12-volt, 1.5-hp electric motor. Essentially it's a trolley, similar to a handcart, with a pair of beefy wheels driven by the electric motor. There's handle for steering and a rocker switch that falls conveniently under the thumb for controlling forward and reverse. If you have a heavier boat, larger versions are available that will even connect to the electric brakes on your trailer. \$1,096 | parkit360.ca.

Gelcoat in a can

Gelcoat repairs can be tricky. Small cracks are one thing, but larger areas are more difficult. For that, the best method is often to spray on the gelcoat. Until now, you needed expensive equipment, and if you didn't know what you were doing, you could end up with an expensive mess. Dolphinite

has come to the rescue with GelMatch Gelcoat in a can. Premixed in a range of colors to match your boat (or custom mixed for a perfect match), simply depress a button on the bottom to activate the hardener, shake for a few minutes to mix, and spray the gelcoat onto the properly prepared area. The nozzle can be adjusted to give a wide or narrow spray pattern, so there should be little overspray. If you've ever used a can of spray paint, you can use this product. To blend in, just wet sand and buff the repair area after it dries. \$99 | dolphinite.com.

Step on it!

When Hobie introduced its pedal-drive system some years ago, it revolutionized the sport of kayak fishing. No longer did you have to have to wrangle a rod and a paddle: You could hold onto your rod as you caught and chased after fish. That same drive system is now available on a stand-up paddleboard. The Hobie Mirage Eclipse is available in 10-foot 6-inch and 12-foot lengths and your choice of yellow or blue. To make the board move, simply step onto the foot pedals and "walk." Adjustable handlebars suit riders of various heights, offer stability,

and allow the rider to steer simply by squeezing the levers on each handle. Get tired of pedaling or want to give your upper body a workout, too? No problem. Slide out the pedal-drive unit and handlebars, and you have a traditional stand-up paddleboard. \$2,499 to \$2,599 | hobiecat.com.

Clog-free multi log

Paddle-wheel transducer logs for registering speed are great when they work, but all it takes is the smallest piece of seaweed or other detritus to jam them up, rendering them useless. I've lost track of the number of times I've pulled mine from the housing to clear it, only to have it clog again within an hour or two. Now there's another way: Airmar, which manufactures and supplies transducers to all the major names in marine electronics, introduced a transducer with no moving parts, rendering frequent trips to the bilge a thing of the past. The DX900+ measures the speed of water molecules passing across the transducer's surface, then converts it in a "black box," and sends the info to connected devices via your boat's NMEA 2000. In addition to speed, the transducer measures leeway in real time, which previously required complex mathematics and vectors drawn on a navigational chart. While the DX900+ isn't cheap, it's a real boon and a game-changer for sailors and racers. \$1,400 | airmar.com.

Is that for real?

When I was a kid, I remember my parents "improving" the look of the kitchen cabinets by sticking on some faux wood-grained plastic. Even to my untrained eye, the results were less than stellar. So it was with skepticism that I approached Belbien, a modern take on an old idea. Unlike the sticky-backed plastics of old, Belbien is much thinner — more like a film — so it conforms well to complex shapes. I tried it on a door panel to cover up an ugly plastic laminate panel. Belbien comes in a huge range of finishes, so I chose a teak finish as close as possible to the surrounding woodwork. It's easy to apply: Simply squeegee it onto the substrate as you remove the backing to expose the adhesive, then trim around the edge with a sharp craft knife. The final result is much better than expected, and you have to get really close to see that this is not real wood. If only we had this back in 1965. Prices vary | idsfinishes.com.

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Here's a look at some items that came in last week . . .

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Hank On Jib W Luff 23-0 (#17092151.87)	299.99	Shore Power Boost Transformer 120-240V (#18020272.01)	799.99
Hobie 16 Jib W Luff 15-7 (#17092151.89)	119.99	Siemens Pro4Jf Solar Panel 75W 48X21 (#18020277.04)	199.99
Spinnaker W 18-6 Luff (#17092151.81)	179.99	Adler-Barbour Cu-100 Compressor/Conden (#18021452.02)	399.99
UK Sails Spinnaker W Luff 50-4 (#17092151.88)	749.99	Solarex Solar Panel W Rail Mounts (#18020744.01)	129.99
Davis Mk15 Sextant (#18020277.11)	99.99	Scheiber Switch Panel 115Vac/12Vdc (#18020742.11)	199.99
Adler-Barbour Evaporator C-100 (#18021452.01)	299.99	Ships Wheel Electric Time Clock (#18020725.01)	149.99
Aqua Signal Tricolor Light (#18020744.04)	59.99	Raymarine RI70C Display W Cover (#18022152.02)	429.99
Perko 1167-E00-Plb Navigation Light (#18020275.01)	549.99	Raytheon R41Xx Raster Scan Radar W Cable (#16082224.16)	149.99
Raymarine 4Kw Radome 24In (#18022152.01)	499.99	Wagner Seautopilot Control Head (#18024101.02)	199.99

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DeBartolo

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“the city that never sleeps,” but this funny man has a simple answer for that.

“I love the water, but I hate the beach,” he explains. “People ask me why I got a boat. I tell them it’s the only way to get to the ocean without walking across sand.”

His latest boat is a 23-foot Farallon, a stout, seaworthy fiberglass pilothouse boat built in California to handle slop-py seas.

“I got tired of worrying when I hit a log in the Hudson,” he says, and keeps the boat, named *Applause 26*, in the water year-round at the West 79th Street Marina, a four-block walk from his apartment. He has a new 250-hp Yamaha outboard for power. Farallons are designed as workboats, but DeBartolo customized his with a small berth that sleeps two, a dining area, and plenty of storage.

“I wanted a boat I could use year-round, and a closed cabin where I could warm up,” he says, and he does. Even on a bitter January day, DeBartolo could very well be the only pleasure boater cruising the Hudson. In his mind, he has a cottage on the river that he can escape to any time he wants.

“To me, boats are like therapy. You leave the dock with hands clamped on the wheel, and then the time on the water just relaxes you and you come back refreshed,” he says. “Forty years later, it still feels the same way.”



Funnyman Dick DeBartolo aboard his 23-foot Farallon pilothouse powerboat, the 26th boat he’s owned.

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