

SEA Yachting

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Arthur Tay driving Singapore

New marina boosts Phuket

**Boat building in Cambodia,
Indonesia**

Latest Regional Marine News

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WHITSUNDAYS Seawind Rally declared a huge success

A total of 17 Seawind catamarans, manned by 80 crew members attended the 2nd biannual Seawind Whitsunday Rally, June 7-14. The race course takes sailors from one island to the next throughout the spectacular Whitsunday Island group.

As the longest event on the Seawind Cruising Club Series calendar, the Whitsunday Rally is beginning to gain legendary status among Seawind owners around the world with a 40% increase in attendance from the initial rally held in 2006.

The Whitsunday Rally is just one of seven regattas and rallies hosted by Seawind as part of the 2008 Seawind Cruising Club Series, which will see around 100 Seawinds and 500 crew participate throughout the year in Australia and the USA. This initiative is aimed at encouraging owners to meet one another, share ideas and knowledge and sail in company, and has already proved a huge success. www.seawindcats.com

Azzura Marine to build superyachts

In July, Australian Azzura Marine announced it had concluded an agreement with Sensation Yachts to acquire its business assets and take over its facility in New South Wales.

This agreement enables Azzura Marine to continue using the facility for its existing refit and repair projects and allows the group to begin building superyachts in Newcastle, earlier than anticipated.

Azzura Marine currently has two other boat-building facilities in Australia producing a range of motor and sailing yachts, including the Azzura Yacht, Marten Yacht and Sydney Yacht brands.

The global market demand for the construction and refit/repair of superyachts has flourished in recent years, but growth of this market in Australia has been restricted by the lack of suitable shipyards. Azzura Marine expects to position this facility as an internationally recognized hub for superyachts in Australia.

"Securing the site will not only allow Azzura Marine to complete our current refit and repair works but also aggressively pursue other opportunities that would not have been possible without the availability of this type of facility and infrastructure," said company principal Iain Murray. "The site has an impressive list of characteristics including deep-water access, 240 metres of wharf space, 900T lifting capacity, a large 120x45 metre single-span construction hall, and associated workshops, all of which will allow for unique client offerings and experiences."

Azzura Marine embarked on this initiative in addition to fulfilling its current obligations in redeveloping the former State Dockyard at Dyke Point, also in Newcastle.

www.azzuramarine.com

Engineers at Bob's Machine Shop unveil new innovation

The engineers at Bob's Machine Shop announced a new innovation for first-time boat users in July. The newly designed, manually operated jackplate, is ideal for first-time boaters on limited budgets and, when required, the jackplate can easily be upgraded to full hydraulic operation.

Jackplates provide better fuel economy, higher speeds and improved handling by reducing the drag of the lower unit and re-positioning the prop into cleaner water.

Made of high-quality, aircraft-grade aluminum, the patent pending Versajac has the same look as Bob's popular line of hydraulic jacks. It is rated for engines up to 300hp and is available in 4", 6", 8", 10" and 12" setbacks. Adjusting the jackplate for optimum results is easily done while the boat is in the water.

When it's time to upgrade from manual to an all-hydraulic operation, converting the jack is simple. Using a few basic hand tools to remove the Versajac's manual screw assembly, a new hydraulic cylinder kit can be installed with the pump being installed inside the boat. All BMS's hydraulic pumps are designed to mount inside for longevity and protection from the elements.

The Versajac comes with a limited lifetime warranty against structural defects and the 6" setback model retails for AU\$395. www.bobsmachine.com.



AIMEX NEWS Australian marine industry targets additional markets

Stepping up its efforts to stimulate growth in the Australian marine industry, the Australian International Marine Export Group (AIMEX) is targeting additional international markets over the next six months, with increased exposure at major world boat shows.

The peak industry private-sector group will target Spain, Russia and Taiwan for the first time along with its regular presence at IBEX in October, METS Amsterdam in November, Dubai International Boat Show in March 2009 and China International Boat Show in April 2009.

AIMEX is also undertaking a trade mission to Spain in conjunction with Austrade with a site tour and networking functions to maximize opportunities with the Salon Nautico Barcelona staged 13-15 November immediately prior to METS Amsterdam.

The national group's headquarters are based in Melbourne. For details visit www.aimex.asn.au.

AIMEX celebrates 10 years

AIMEX celebrated 10 years with over 150 guests attending the celebratory function on board the SS *South Steyne*. In the past 10 years, AIMEX has established a global presence as marine exporters and provided excellent services and support. Richard Chapman, Alistair Murray, Richard Ward and Alan Steber, all members of AIMEX, were presented with certificates thanking them for the time and effort they have put into AIMEX over the past 10 years.

Austral Propellers, Coursemaster Autopilots, Crib Point Engineering, Hydrive Steering Systems, Muir Winches, Mustang Cruisers, Quintrex, Riviera Cruisers, Sanctuary Cove International Boat show, Stebercraft International, Ronstan International Seahawk Propellers, Seawind Catamarans, TMQ Electronics and Whitley Cruisers were also all presented with certificates acknowledging their 10 years of continuing AIMEX membership.