



From the Publisher

Ahhh....April!! We've got signs of spring (despite St. Patrick's Day snow and ice), longer daylight hours and the knowledge that splash-down draws closer with every passing weekend. Spring arrived officially on March, 21, a happening for which, I believe, most of us are quite grateful. Along the shores of Long Island, New Jersey and New England, fishing for flounder and other bottom fish took off around St. Patrick's Day. We won't have too much longer to wait now before enjoying a new boating season.

Many of you who have not as yet become boaters might wish to embark upon an increasingly popular mission that is being heralded nationally by the marine industry as "Discover Boating." Actually, it's an advertising campaign rolled out initially in March, 2006 by the National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA). The campaign generated over 1.5 billion ad impressions and more than 160 million public relations impressions. If you haven't done so, visit the website

www.discoverboating.com. Over a million interested people did so last year.

"Discover Boating" involves recreational boating, both sail and power. This year's campaign kicked off in the first week of March and will run through Memorial Day, considered the official start of boating season. The print campaign will run March through May in 11 publications including *Popular Science*, *Popular Mechanics*, *Family Handyman*, *Men's Journal*, *Golf*, *Field & Stream*, *Outdoor Life*, *Motor Trend*, *Family Circle*, *National Geographic Traveler*, and *Real Simple Travel*. You also may see numerous 30-second TV commercials on shows including Animal Planet, CMT Music Television, FOX News, and on MSNBC, National Geographic, Weather and Travel channels. These will help you to get to know more about the boating lifestyle and direct you to other sources of information. We know we're biased, but if you and your family are not enjoying boating already, you could be missing out on a whole new world of relaxation and fun.

This issue features stories by Jan

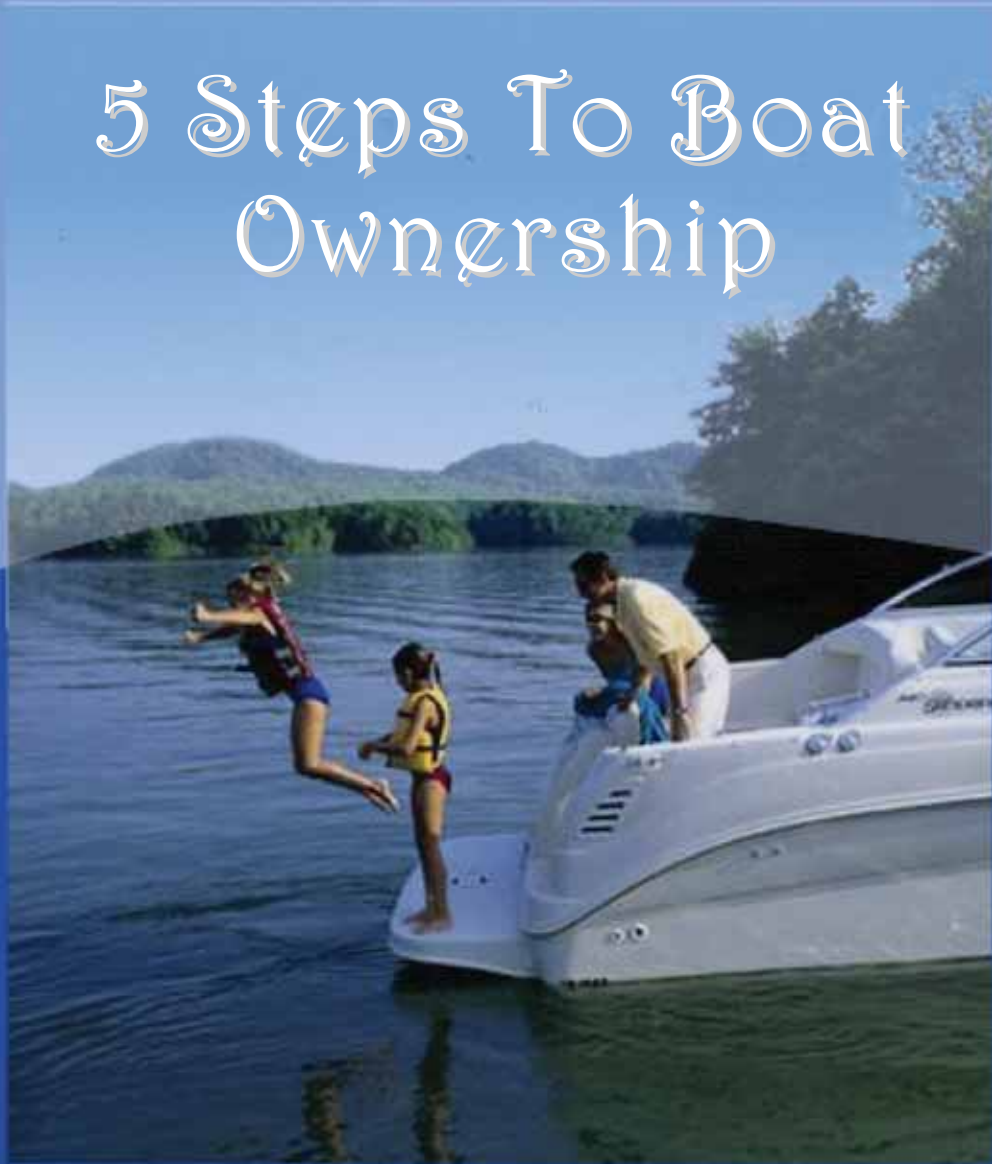
Raber, who tells us about her Disney World aquarium dive; and Bob Bachand continuing his historical series entitled "Pirates & Privateers". Admiralty attorney James Mercante reveals how a boat owner unwittingly forfeited his insurance coverage for a mishap by failing to have his boat laid up by the required date; Gordon Butler cruises along with Part III of his ICW trip, this one from Norfolk, VA to Little River Inlet, SC. We also have Captain Gary Joyce sharing some valuable maintenance tips learned while attending Mack Boring's three day diesel training sessions and Hank Foglino's "Boating at Night" discussing some of the difficulties of navigating after dark.

Have a relaxing, fun-filled spring. And you boaters-to-be who "Discover Boating", let's hear from you about some of your adventures.

Bill



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- 3) Learn All You Can
- 4) Check Out Financing & Insurance
- 5) Get Out On The Water