

# Boating World Book Review

by George Nammack

## Maintain and Improve Your Powerboat

has written hundreds of articles on boat repairs, boat maintenance and boat improvements. Currently, he's the technical editor of *Small Craft Advisor* magazine and writes a weekly radio show, *Radio Nor'easter*, on WCTR 1530 AM out of Chestertown, Maryland. His boat project website is at [www.thevirtual-boatyard.com](http://www.thevirtual-boatyard.com).

His new book, *Maintain and Improve Your Powerboat*, is truly a can't-put-downer for boaters. Once opened, there's no way your eyes and mind will permit you to casually close the covers. The front cover calls out "More than

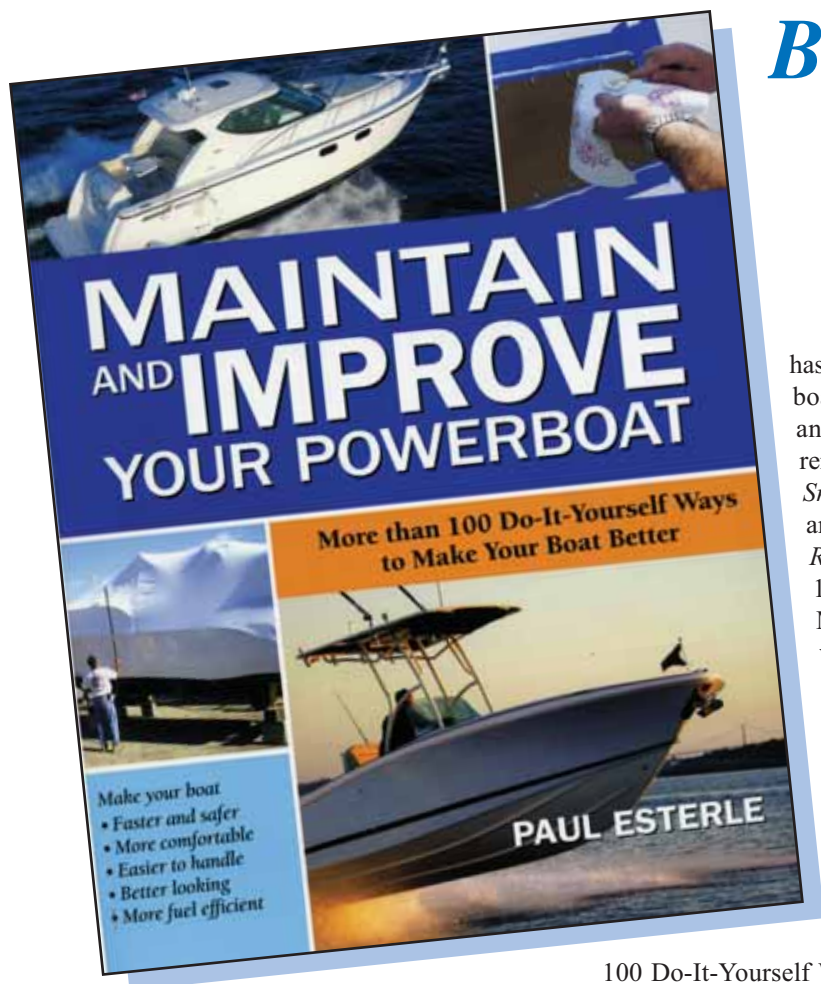
mini-fleet of three boats, and working for West Marine. This book was sparked by questions I've heard over and over again from magazine readers and West Marine customers."

He tells us that boat owners are interested in doing more of their own work on boats. Costs of boats, fuel, and slips are constantly rising, as is the difficulties of locating affordable marine services. These factors combine to produce 'an explosion of DIY (Do It Yourself) boaters.' He goes on to say that there isn't room in the book's pages to explore every approach to a project, and that he has chosen to focus on solutions that he's used, ones he knows '...will work for you.' Modestly, Captain Paul admits that all the projects he's tried have not worked out, but reminds us that in all cases we can learn from his experiences. He counsels that "we can learn more from mistakes than successes, and working on a boat is certainly no different. And isn't it better when the mistakes you learn from are someone else's?" I enjoyed that rare candor.

The book is chock full of photos, diagrams and drawings that enhance and clarify every topic. The author presents 130 different projects to keep us busy. These include: *Adding a cockpit table, hand-holds, tackle drawers, and storage compartments. \* Installing a washdown pump \* Replacing a fuel tank \* Making biminis and awnings \* Adding deck hardware, rod holders, an anchor windlass, or a boarding ladder \* Fixing damage to fiberglass hulls and decks \* Repairing stainless steel pulpits and railings \* Installing a T-top \* Applying polyurethane paint to old gelcoat \* Caring for and improving the electrical system, engine, drive-train, and steering system \* Improving fuel efficiency \* Maintaining a trailer, \* and a whole lot more...* He assures us that "Most of these projects can be completed in a weekend or less. And you'll love the results."

May we presume to offer a word of caution to those readers who will be acquiring Captain Paul's new book? Do refrain from passing your copy around your next yacht club meeting. It won't make a complete tour. Be hesitant if your best friend asks to borrow it. Require him to sign a dated receipt or leave you \$25 cash in an envelope, which you will return upon his return of the book in good shape.

Take care on your way to your local bookstore.



### Maintain and Improve Your Powerboat

By Paul Esterle

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ISBN 978-0-07-154934-9

294 pp. \$24.95

Captain Paul Esterle is an established boating writer and an extremely fortunate person. Extremely fortunate, you wonder? How come? It's because he has a substantial edge on many, many people that makes him a happy and contented man. He loves what he does for a living. Not everyone happens to be in that wonderful boat. He lives boating and, obviously, loves it big time. Whether he is running one, admiring one, building one or repairing one, he's doing his thing...his preferred thing. Best of all, he does it all well, very well, indeed.

Captain Paul is a contributing writer to *Long Island Boating World*, a 26-year-old monthly boating newspaper, which this reviewer serves as editor. Reading the captain's submissions is a real pleasure for me. They have a way of bringing the reader into the work-shed, up on the boat itself, into the yard. He

100 Do-It-Yourself Ways to Make Your Boat Better". You're going to leave it closed? We don't think so. Another front cover copy block reads: "Make your boat \*Faster and safer \*More comfortable \*Easier to handle \*Better looking \*More fuel efficient. Just wait until you start reading. Did you ever think that your eyes could gallop?"

Please let me share with you his 10 chapter headings. They guide you into planning, onto the boat, into the boat, all over the boat...you'll see. Chapter 1 How Boats Are Built; 2 The Cockpit; 3 Cabin and Galley; 4 Decks; 5 Boat Canvas; 6 Hulls; 7 Boat Electrics and Electronics; 8 Engine and Drive Train; 9 Trailers; 10 Winterizing. There are two Appendices: Appendix A: Sources of Information; Appendix B: Sources of Gear and Supplies. Concluding this treasure is a nine-page Index, where you'll find just about everything related to boats and their maintenance. As is stated on the back cover "From changing the engine oil and restoring oxidized gelcoat to making major structural repairs, this book has all the information you need to maintain and improve a small to midsize powerboat up to 35 or 40 feet long."

Captain Paul is outstandingly frank with readers. In his brief preface, he refers to spending years in the hospital field before "I decided to 'drop out' and to do something fun for a while. My definition of 'fun' includes writing about boats, maintaining a

# Deep Down

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