

AMERICAN CUSTOM YACHTS, INC., 6800 S.W. JACK JAMES DRIVE, STUART, FL 34997 • (772) 221-9100
Fax (772) 288-4993 Web Site: www.americancustomyachts.com E-Mail: acy@gate.net



Framing for the Future

Paint Prep Building on Target for Late Spring Opening

According to Project Manager John Resnik, over 90 percent of the structural steel is in place on ACY's new paint prep building. Measuring 157' x 88' with a 43' clearance, the facility addition will be dedicated to the sanding and prepping of vessels prior to their transfer to the paint bay. It will also house several small bays for the preparation of marine parts.

"Once the last structural beams are in place, we'll begin sheeting the roof and sides, and then begin on the fire system, electric, and plumbing," said Resnik. "All that is left at that point is the finish work. We're shooting for a late spring completion, and so far we're right on schedule."

"It's pretty amazing to oversee all the little steps it takes to complete a big project like this," he added. "This is going to be a major enhancement to the facility."



Get to Know Service Manager Eric Bamberg

Chances are that if you grew up on the coast of Maine, you knew something about boats. ACY Service Manager Eric Bamberg grew up on the coast of Maine, and he knows plenty. If you're a boat owner around Stuart, chances are you know Eric.

A native of Boothbay Harbor, Bamberg attended Washington County Vocational-Technical Institute in Eastport, where he received his initial training in marine mechanics. He then went on to work as a mechanic for Brewer's Boatyard on Southport Island, where he earned mechanical certifications from many of the major engine manufacturers, including Mercruiser, Crusader, Volvo, and Westerbeke.

The vessels Bamberg worked on in Maine consisted mostly of sportfishing boats and pleasure craft in the 35' to 40' range, along with sailboats and, of course, commercial lobster boats.



When Bamberg moved to Florida in 1979, he took a position as a mechanic at David Lowes Boat Yard – a small and dedicated Stuart facility known for quality workmanship and outstanding customer service. After several years, Eric parted with

Lowe to open his own mobile yacht service business named White Island Marine. When the time came to start a family, Bamberg decided to close the business and return to Maine where a job awaited him at Boothbay Regional Boatyard (the former Brewer facility).

Through the years, Bamberg stayed in touch with his old friend, David Lowe, who continually pressed him to come back to work in Florida. Eventually, Lowe coaxed Bamberg back to his yard in Stuart, where Eric took over as yard manager. Bamberg ran the operation at Lowe's for many years, staying on through the transition to new ownership in 2000.

While under the new ownership, Eric's position became less focused on operations and more on the service of company vessels. Eric decided he needed to find a service facility that would better

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Get to Know Bamberg... *continued*



After suffering severe damage from Hurricane Charley, CAROL ANNE, a 44' Carver motoryacht, became a special project for Bamberg, as he personally oversaw the vessel's complete restoration to factory condition.

accommodate his extensive experience. He discovered that ACY was in the process of expanding its service department. The timing was perfect and Eric joined the ACY team, running the service department with fellow manager Bob Jenkins.

"My focus here at American is to deal with the service of vessels under 50 feet and to oversee our growing boat storage business," said Bamberg. "Our average storage vessel ranges between 45 and 55 feet in length. This

appears to be fairly consistent between most boatyards. Larger vessels tend to stay in the water. Because a lot of our customers are seasonal, the average length of storage is three to six months. When a boat comes to American, we treat it as if it was someone's home and, in many cases it is the customer's home for several months out of the year."

As a result of Hurricane Charley in 2004, ACY customers Terry and Carol Cox of Punta Gorda, on Florida's west coast, found themselves on the receiving end of Bamberg's care, and have since become his biggest fans. "We brought our boat, CAROL ANNE, across the state in 2004 after taking a direct hit from Hurricane Charley," Terry explained. "The vessel was a mess. The fiberglass was chipped all over from flying debris; there was significant interior water damage and the rub rails were destroyed from bouncing off the dock. Eric gave the boat a thorough inspection and informed us, to our great relief, that the damage was only superficial and could be repaired. A few weeks later, Hurricanes Frances and Jeanne slammed into Stuart. That was another big scare but, thank goodness, Eric had everything secured.

"The interior water damage proved to be so extensive that everything had to be

either replaced or completely refinished," said Cox. "The exterior fiberglass was repaired like new, the rub rails replaced, and the boat received a beautiful paint job. We also decided to have a hard top installed and a few other upgrades performed while the boat was in the yard. It took over a year to complete everything, but we basically ended up with a brand new vessel.

"We had one final scare in October with Hurricane Wilma," Cox added. "Once again, Eric came to the rescue. He secured the boat, removed and stored the bridge enclosure, and covered the boat with a tarp to prevent any additional water damage. That was above and beyond the call of duty. We can't say enough good things about Eric and the crew at American Custom Yachts. Everyone there is extremely knowledgeable and hard working, yet they take the time to get to know their customers."

"We try to perform our jobs the best we know how," said Bamberg. "I just try to treat people the way I want to be treated, and I couldn't have asked for a better crew to work with. We all have a mutual respect for one another, and that translates into better service for the customer."

FISHING REPORT

QUE MAS Returns from Incredible Blue Water Journey



Captain Travis Butters looked surprisingly well rested as he steered the ACY70 QUE MAS into the haul-out bay, considering he had just put an incredible 1,500 hours on the vessel since last spring.

Arriving at ACY for scheduled maintenance, the QUE MAS had just completed a remarkable journey, traveling from its home in Islamorada, FL to the fish-filled waters of Costa Rica, Panama, Bermuda, Venezuela and St. Thomas. Consulting a log book bursting at the seams, the modest captain Butters made mention of just a few of the trip highlights, including two grand slams in Venezuela and substituting for ACY65 FREEDOM in the La Guaira leg of the televised ESPN2 Billfishing Xtreme Release League tournament series.



The QUE MAS crew has it wired!

The QUE MAS crew celebrates their second Venezuelan Grand Slam (L-R): Angler Charlie Scoble (who caught all three fish), Capt. Travis Butters, Mate Donnie Lang, and the vessel's owner Wally Whitley.



ACY Hosts Southern Style Christmas Celebration

ACY employees and their families kicked up their heels and celebrated Christmas Southern style, while enjoying a mouth-watering barbeque feast courtesy of Bono's Pit Bar-B-Q. Entertaining the festive crowd was One Night Stand, featuring ACY's own Chaz Howard and partner Desiree Clabo, who provided a memorable dose of original country music.



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Wilsame Lubin

Wilsame Lubin left Laguna, Haiti twenty-six years ago in search of a better life in the United States. Since then, most of his family has joined him. Lubin came to ACY two years ago and took a position with the maintenance crew. He now oversees a crew of ten as ACY's Yard Maintenance Supervisor.

"One of Wilsame's primary duties is to acquaint new employees with the facility and see what their areas of interest are," said ACY Administrations Director John Resnik. "He then arranges for their training depending on their skills and desire. Wilsame's good nature and hard work ethic have set an example at ACY. He is well-respected among his peers, and new employees can count on him to guide them in the right direction. Wilsame is a great asset to the company."



Delany Travels to Nordhavn Shipyard in Taiwan

IMS Sales and Engineering Specialist Steve Delany traveled to the Nordhavn Shipyard in Taiwan in January, where he toured the facility and met with construction and engineering managers to discuss upcoming projects. IMS

has an arrangement to ship electronics to the Nordhavn facility for pre-wiring and installation, with the final commissioning performed at the ACY yard in Florida.

Florida Notes

Horizon 76

IMS recently completed an extensive marine electronics and audio-video package on a new 76' **Horizon** motoryacht for **Gilman Yacht Sales** of North Palm Beach. Electronics include a Furuno NAVnet® multiple radar system with three displays, along with an integrated foul weather helm station. Audio-video features include a Pioneer Elite® multi-room surround sound system and a 42-inch Panasonic® plasma TV that pops up from a salon cabinet at the push of a button.



Hatteras 92 Refit

This 92' **Hatteras** motoryacht recently received major marine electronics and audio-video upgrades. The electronics package included redundant systems on the bridge and pilot house, each including the latest black box and computer navigation technology displayed on LCD screens.



North Carolina Notes

Winter hasn't slowed down IMS in North Carolina, reported Operations Manager Michael Garrett. The company recently completed electronics installations on a 33' **Grady White** for Morehead Marine, a **Cabo 40 Flybridge**, and a 70' **Jarrett Bay**, that served as MTU's demo boat for their new Detroit Diesel engines at the Miami Boat Show. Installation is nearly complete on a 56' **Chadwick**, a custom-built Carolina sportfisherman. Work is about to commence on the electronics for a 64' **Lightning**, another custom-built Carolina boat.

Grady White 33



Cabo 40 Flybridge



FOX Outfits Two Jupiter Island Estates

FOX Audio Video recently completed major audio-video installations on two sprawling Jupiter Island estates, reported Custom Home Electronics Design Consultant Brant Kraczek.

One of the estates, belonging to a well-known professional golfer, was outfitted with a 60-inch plasma TV and a fully automated home entertainment system tied into the existing audio system. Plans are underway to expand the audio-video system throughout the house and guesthouse.

The other estate, belonging to an eminent publisher, was transformed into a "smart house" of the future. The process entailed removing the existing audio-video system and replacing it with a custom designed audio distribution system and several plasma TVs – all controlled by an ELAN® touch panel.



A single ELAN® touch panel controls an entire home system.

Product Profile



Dynaudio® Hi-Performance Speakers

Whether you're rocking to your favorite music or enjoying an action-packed surround sound movie, Dynaudio® delivers an unprecedented sonic encounter. Delivering more than just incredible performance, Dynaudio® loudspeakers look as great as they sound. You'll have no problem matching your décor with a selection of genuine wood cabinets available in cherry, maple, rosewood and black ash. Stop by FOX today and let Dynaudio® treat you to an audition that's guaranteed to steal the show!



ACY and Its Affiliates Make a Splash at Miami International Boat Show



ACY and its affiliates Bausch-American Towers and IMS American reported brisk business at the Miami International Boat Show, held February 16 through 20 at the Miami Beach Convention Center and Sea Isle Marina and Yachting Center. Considered by many to be the world's premier boat show, this year's event was no disappointment, hosting over 2,300 vendors with over 2.5 million square feet of exhibition space.



New NC Facility Open for Business



The new BAT and IMS facility is officially open for business in Beaufort, said BAT President Tim Bausch.

"All we have left to do is some minor cosmetics and landscaping," Bausch reported at press time in early March. "We are preparing to start on several new towers over the next few weeks."

The 30,000 square foot waterfront complex, located at Jarrett Bay, houses an ultra-modern facility for tower fabrication and the installation of marine electronics. The facility will also feature a state-of-the-art electronics showroom featuring the latest in marine electronics and entertainment systems.

BAT Florida Highlights



BAT recently refit the 56' Rybovich FONDANA with a new full tower and hard top.



EXPERTS ONLY, a 60' Bertram received an eye-catching full tower and hard top package.

BAT North Carolina Highlights



This 70' Jarrett Bay was outfitted with a half-tower, rail package and riggers.

Albermarle selected BAT to outfit their much-anticipated new 36-footer. This inaugural showpiece features a full tower, hard top, rail package and riggers.



ACY Work In Progress

A SAMPLING OF PROJECTS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY



ACY65 BLUEWATER CAT is undergoing some major modifications, including the installation of bow thrusters and a custom-fabricated mezzanine. The vessel will also receive a variety of electronics upgrades courtesy of IMS American.



ACY is performing various warranty work on the 75' Mikelson MOONBEAM, along with a complete bottom job.



The ROOKIE IV, a 63' Monterey, will receive a custom-designed ACY mezzanine, along with a new center fuel tank.



SLUMBER VENTURE, a 60' custom-built cat, is visiting ACY for a name change, paint touch-ups and a bottom job in preparation for out-island adventure in the Exumas.



YOU NEVER KNOW, a 44' Viking, is being prepped for a complete repaint. The vessel will also receive a new teak cockpit and covering boards.

ACY



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COMING IN OUR NEXT ISSUE *BAT & IMS NC FACILITY IN FULL SWING*



Flipping for **FREEDOM**

On the morning of February 2, ACY employees gathered to celebrate an exciting display of physics: the flipping of the new **FREEDOM 68** hull. While the actual hull turning takes less than a minute, it takes over an hour to coordinate the logistics.

The process itself is quite simple: When a hull is ready to be turned, it is lifted off the jig with a Travelift® and carefully placed in the yard on blocks. Two cranes are positioned on either side of the hull, each supporting a 30' spreader beam. Two straps are affixed to the beam at equal distance to the hull's center of gravity, creating a sling on which it can roll. One of the beams is positioned high above the hull, with the other positioned even with the chine. The low beam is then raised slowly by one of the cranes, causing the hull to flip 180 degrees within the sling. The hull is then lowered back onto blocks so it can be returned inside by the Travelift®.

ASK THE YACHT DOCTORS®

This new feature answers commonly asked questions posed to ACY regarding boat construction, maintenance and repair. Please fax your question to 772-288-4993, or e-mail it to acy@qate.net, in care of the "Yacht Doctors®." If your question is selected, we'll send you an ACY T-shirt. (To protect your privacy, your name will not be used.) The doctors are always in!

Q: How long should propellers last in relation to the life of vessel?

YD: Theoretically, the propellers should last the entire lifetime of a vessel, providing they are not reconditioned too frequently. Typically, propellers only need to be reconditioned if they have been damaged from running aground or hitting debris. Reconditioning may also be required if there has been a significant weight change in the vessel that would constitute a change in the propeller's pitch.

For today's high horsepower speed machines, we recommend Nibral props that combine nickel, aluminum and bronze. They can withstand reconditioning better than aluminum or bronze props.

