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A
GUIDE
TO

BUYING & SERVICING BOATS IN MAINE

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A GUIDE TO BUYING & SERVICING BOATS IN MAINE

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A Guide to Buying & Servicing Boats in Maine is published by:

Maine Built Boats, Inc.

**PO Box 153 | Belfast, ME 04915 USA | info@mainebuiltboats.com
mainebuiltboats.com**

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Cover photo: BLUE CHIP, a custom 41-foot dayboat built by Front Street Shipyard, photographed by Billy Black.

A photograph of three lobster boats racing on the water. The boats are white with green hulls and are moving quickly, creating white spray. The background shows a forested coastline under a blue sky.

Maine's AMAZING RACES

Story by Nicole Jacques

In Maine, we don't just build boats. We also play on them. Most all of our bays and harbors host races that range from weeknight beer-can series to multi-day drag races. Anyone with a boat and a spirit of adventure is welcome to compete for trophies or bragging rights throughout the summer months.

We've selected a few of our favorite on-the-water racing rendezvous around the state, many of which are populated by boats built locally by our members.

Lobster Boat Races

A unique experience native to Maine is the annual Lobster Boat Races that span the coast from

Portland to Downeast. An event that started as a fun, informal excuse for lobstermen to flex their powerful engine muscles has become a wildly popular series of races that draw crowds from around the country.

Divided into multiple classes including skiffs, gas-powered work boats, and diesel-powered work boats, these iconic lobster hulls take a day off from hauling traps to cruise around a course at speeds often upwards of 65 miles per hour.

Competitors and onlookers alike have fun comparing the advantages of different engine types paired with the perks of different hull shapes. The designers and builders of these boats are often on hand to offer

their own perspectives on what makes one boat lead the pack.

Races run from June through August. More information is online at www.mainescoast.com.

GMORA Regattas

For racers who prefer to take a little more time getting around a racecourse, the Gulf of Maine Ocean Racing Association (GMORA) recognizes dozens of regattas around the state in four separate regions: Eastern, Western, Pen Bay, and Boothbay. Within each region, the races are further defined by classes of sailboats including spinnaker, non-spinnaker, multihull, and one-design.

Using the industry-standard Performance Handicap Racing Fleet (PHRF) ratings, boats of varying models and sizes can be competitive in these regattas, regardless of waterline length or hull design. That means the fastest boat around a course isn't always the first-place finisher.

In 2023, GMORA sanctioned more than 30 regattas across the state as qualifying races to win their series trophies. Each of these regattas was independently hosted by GMORA-authorized organizers and scored by experienced race officers. A boat is in contention by being

a member in good standing of GMORA and participating in at least three of the races within its regional division.

Races take place between May and October annually. More information is online at gmora.org.

Annual Standouts

Several popular races around the state attract annual participants from near and far, as well as hundreds of onshore onlookers. These longstanding events are staples of the maritime calendars for boaters in our state.

For more than four decades, the annual **MS Harborfest** has been raising millions of dollars and regional awareness for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. The three-day event includes a charity auction, a tugboat muster, and two days of racing.

The weekend celebration started in 1982 as the MS Regatta,





a long course for sailboats larger than 20 feet, which starts in Portland Harbor and winds around several small islands. Over the years the event expanded to include lobster boat racing and a tugboat muster and race. The MS Harborfest takes place each year in mid-August.

Farther up the coast, a different kind of fleet gathers annually for the **Eggemoggin Reach Regatta** and its feeder races. Sometimes considered our state's best-kept secret, this historical race has remained unchanged in its course and atmosphere since its 1985 inception.

Exclusively for wooden sailboats, the ERR is held on the first Saturday of August with a starting line just off WoodenBoat Harbor in Brooklin, Maine. Many of the hundred-plus entrants are classic yachts more than a century old. Others are sometimes barely a few months old, often built by one of the regatta's sponsors, Brooklin Boat Yard or Rockport Marine. The striking spectacle of so many beautiful, ageless yachts from around the world only happens here in Maine.

For yachts sailing downeast to Brooklin annually, there are two days of racing that take place before the ERR, including the Castine to Camden Regatta, and the Camden to Brooklin Regatta. More information about the ERR and its feeders is online at erregatta.com.

Some of the ERR participants are also lucky enough to qualify as entrants into another classic yacht regatta, the **Great Schooner Race** in Rockland, Maine. Considered





LEWIS R. FRENCH, built in 1871 in Christmas Cove, races against LADONA, built in 1922 in Boothbay, during the annual Great Schooner Race. *Photo by Tracy Sheppard.*

the largest annual gathering of traditional schooners in America, the early July regatta is organized by the Maine Windjammer Association.

With five classes of vessels based on age (pre- and post-WWI), homeport, and size, the Great Schooner Race takes passengers and onlookers back in time a century or more to an era when these traditional sailing vessels were the crux of shipping and commerce for our country. Since the 1970s in Maine, these coasting schooners have transformed into passenger vessels, cruising among Maine's thousands of islands.

Once a year, the fleet gathers together to race among these islands with more than a hundred guests on board. Interested in joining a vessel for the regatta? Go online to sailmainecoast.com.

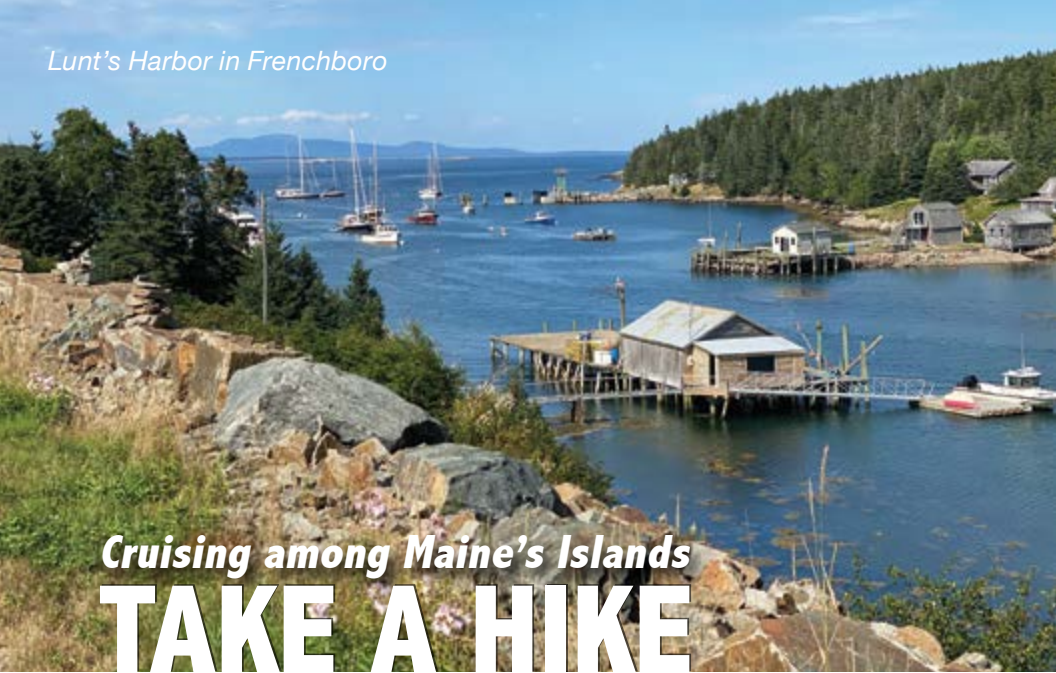
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Cruising among Maine's Islands **TAKE A HIKE**

Story and photos by Nicole Jacques

"You can't get there from here."

It's a Maine adage that certainly holds water. Our state's stunning landscape includes thousands of islands that are all but unreachable to most landlubbers. Boaters, however, have a unique opportunity to explore pristine, protected regions only accessible by water.

Those of us boaters who live in or visit Maine have several important organizations to thank for our continued access to these islands, including Maine Coast Heritage Trust, Maine Island Trail Association, several region-specific nonprofits, as well as the networks of National and State Parks. Our appreciation is best conveyed by our use and care of these special spaces.

So, chart a course to take a hike! Explore some some farther-flung places where you can enjoy the hidden flora and fauna of our state.

FRENCHBORO

At the mouth of Blue Hill Bay sits the town of Frenchboro on Long Island, a fishing community made up of 29 residents, according to the most recent Census report. Two-thirds of the island is a preserve that includes 13.5 miles of trails, winding along its 8.2-mile rocky coastline and inland through its tree-covered terrain.

Cruise into Lunt's Harbor where there are several moorings available for rent, situated among the dozen or so commercial lobster boats that are the lifeblood of the Frenchboro economy. Depending on the day of the week, you may even be able to enjoy a fresh lobster roll at Lunt's Dockside Deli or take a peek back in time in the Museum — the only only public businesses on the island — before hitting the trails.

Just behind the Museum, pick up

the trail that leads south past two small beaches to dramatic views of the open ocean from Bluff Head.

ISLE AU HAUT

A hidden gem among Acadia National Park's trail systems sits on the "High Island," due south of Stonington and Maine's famed Merchant Row archipelago. Isle Au Haut, so named by French explorer Samuel Champlain in 1604, has a year-round population of 54. An additional 200 show up for the summer months, a tradition that has been popular since the 1800s "rusticators" began arriving from Boston and other big cities seasonally.

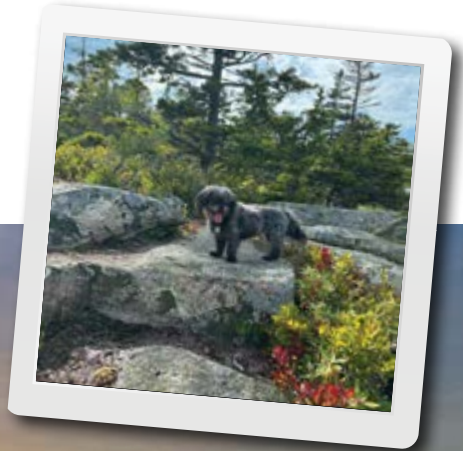
Isle Au Haut was made famous by lobsterwoman Linda Greenlaw who wrote the bestselling book *The Lobster Chronicles* two decades ago. Lobstering continues to be the most prevalent occupation of the island's full-time residents.

Ashore you'll find a small market

that offers basic provisions as well as some locally made delicacies and fresh-baked goods. There's even a small food truck open several days per week where you can get a hot panini or snack.

While there are no moorings available for rent, there's protected anchoring in Laundry Cove on the northwest side of the island, which is a dinghy-ride away from the town.

The tallest mountain on the island is Champlain at 543 feet of elevation, and it's actually outside of Acadia National Park. From the town landing, swing a left onto the main road and walk down about a mile, keeping your eyes open for a small trail sign tied up with a few lobster buoys — a traditional trailhead indicator in Maine.



Laundry Cove in Isle au Haut

GREAT WASS ISLAND

For cruisers who are aiming to get as far downeast as they can, Great Wass Island is one of the last land points before crossing into Canada by sea. Just southwest of the famed, sandy Great Beach on Roque Island, Great Wass is a 1,567-acre preserve maintained by The Nature Conservancy. Part of a 43-island archipelago off the coast of Jonesport, this unspoiled land is entirely uninhabited, except by a great array of birds, reptiles, and mammals.

With several unique, natural characteristics like peat bogs

and the state's largest stand of Jack Pine, Great Wass Island is an awe-inspiring ecological treasure chest. You'll discover jewels such as rare sub-arctic plants and animal species. Keep your eye out for bald eagles swooping past your boat as they shoot into the chilly water in search of dinner.

As is common for much of the Downeast, Great Wass is often shrouded in fog. Make sure you have a working radar and AIS before making the long sail to this remote region. Keep an eye on your chart as you search for an anchoring spot; there are a lot of hidden rocks along the granite coastline, and the tide swings as much as 15 feet or more.

Mud Hole on the northern side of the island is a scenic and convenient anchorage where you can pick up a hiking trail that takes you along a 4.5-mile loop. Start down the shoreline and follow it into the Jack Pine Woodland and a bog overlook.



Beware of downeast fog!

Congratulations

on choosing to buy or service a boat with the quality and heritage that is only found in Maine! Feel confident in choosing a builder or service yard from among all the exceptional facilities throughout the state.

This A-to-Z list of Maine's best builders and yards is your singular reference for finding your next boat.

A.W. PETTEGROW INC.

135 Seal Cove Road, Southwest Harbor, ME 04679
P: (207) 244-7222 | W: pettegrowboats.com

A.W. PETTEGROW INC. is located in the quiet Maine seacoast town of Southwest Harbor, where boats and the sea are a way of life. Pettegrow boats have developed a reputation for being carefully built, strong, seaworthy craft that are beautiful to behold.

THE APPRENTICESHOP

643 Main Street, Rockland, ME 04841
P: (207) 594-1800 | W: apprenticeshop.org

THE APPRENTICESHOP is one of the oldest and finest traditional boatbuilding schools in the country. The Apprenticeshop offers custom boat commissions and intensive boatbuilding programs.

AR KENNEDY CUSTOMS

917 US Rt. 1, Steuben, ME 04680
W: arkennedycustoms.com

Roger & Angela Kennedy, formerly Kennedy Marine Eng., are now AR KENNEDY CUSTOMS: Boat builders, custom boat finishers, home of the 36 Crowley Beal, & boat transportation.

BACK COVE YACHTS

23 Merrill Drive, PO Box 548, Rockland, ME 04841
P: (207) 594-8844 | W: backcoveyachts.com

BACK COVE YACHTS is sister company of Sabre Yachts, and together these two yards are the largest recreational boatbuilding company in the State of Maine, where America's first ships were built on the shores of the Kennebec River.

BLUEJACKET SHIPCRAFTERS INC.

160 East Main Street, Searsport, ME 04974
P: (207) 548-9970 | W: bluejacketinc.com

BLUEJACKET SHIPCRAFTERS INC. has been in continuous operation since 1905. BlueJacket continues our tradition of fine craftsmanship, precision production, and warm, personal service to our customers.

BROOKLIN BOAT YARD

PO Box 143, Brooklin, ME 04616
P: (207) 359-2236 | W: brooklinboatyard.com

BROOKLIN BOAT YARD was founded in 1960 by Joel White. It combines the longstanding tradition of Maine craftsmanship with modern technology to create world-class yachts that push the envelope of performance and grace.

BUXTON BOATS

139 Burnt Cove Road, Stonington, ME 04681
P: (207) 367-6318 | E: buxtonboats@gmail.com

BUXTON BOATS is a wooden (10'-50') boat building and design company, specializing in lobster boat and lobster yacht construction and designs of all types. Located in the Burnt Cove area of Stonington.

CLASSIC BOAT SHOP

PO Box 74, 369 Tremont Road, Bernard, ME 04612
P: (207) 244-3374 | W: classicboatshop.com

CLASSIC BOAT SHOP takes pride in finding, caring for and offering an eclectic blend of little yachts with a touch of the unusual and a bit of class to better suit your individual needs.

ELLIS BOAT CO.

265 Seawall Road, Southwest Harbor, ME 04679
P: (207) 244-9221 | W: ellisboat.com

ELLIS BOAT COMPANY has a rich tradition and history in Maine boatbuilding. Bunker and Ellis began building custom wooden lobster yachts in 1945. Today Ellis Boat Company continues to build traditional-style Downeast powerboats.

FARRINS BOATSHOP

19 Sproul Road, Walpole, ME 04573
P: (207) 563-5510 | W: farrinsboatshop.com

FARRINS BOATSHOP custom builds modern workboats, commercial sportfishermen and pleasure yachts. At Farrins, pride in our workmanship has been continuously applied in over 40 years of building boats.

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FINESTKIND BOATYARD

11 Bristol Way, Harpswell, ME 04079

P: (207) 833-6885 | W: fkby.com

FINESTKIND BOATYARD is located on the pristine shores of Basin Cove, a hurricane hole situated in the center of Casco Bay, South Harpswell, Maine. Although Finestkind Boatyard is a full-service boatyard, do-it-yourself clientele are readily welcomed.

FRONT STREET SHIPYARD

101 Front Street, Belfast, ME 04915

P: (207) 930-3740 | W: frontstreetshipyard.com

FRONT STREET SHIPYARD is the largest, most capable yacht yard in the northeast. With lifting capabilities up to 485 tons and indoor shop space for yachts as long as 160 feet, Front Street Shipyard offers new construction, refits, dockage and storage for vessels of all sizes.

GENERAL MARINE

56 Landry Street, Biddeford, ME 04005

P: (207) 284-7517 | W: generalmarine.com

GENERAL MARINE INC. has focused on meeting the needs of experienced boaters. Seasoned pleasure boaters and commercial fisherman alike have come to appreciate the proven design, quality materials, and workmanship that goes into every single General Marine boat.

HEWES & COMPANY

PO Box 599, Blue Hill, ME 04614

P: (207) 460-1178 | W: cnc-marine-hewesco.com

HEWES & COMPANY offers CNC machining to the marine industry: molds, frames, half models, prefab Marinedeck, Corian, router patterns, curved doors & frames, as well as traditional interior joinery and varnish, CAD work and photo-digitizing services.

HINCKLEY YACHTS

130 Shore Road | Southwest Harbor, ME 04679

P: (207) 244-5531 | W: hinckleyyachts.com

HINCKLEY YACHTS was founded in Maine in 1928 and is considered to be one of the oldest yacht builders in the U.S. The company provides yacht refit, maintenance, repair and storage services for boats up to 150 feet in length and 180 tons.

JOHN WILLIAMS BOAT CO.

PO Box 80, Hall Quarry, Mount Desert, ME 04660
P: (207) 244-7854 | W: jwboatco.com

JOHN WILLIAMS BOAT CO. takes a very personal interest in your project. We love the challenge of working out just how to make cockpit seats that fold away when not needed, or how to maximize storage space below according to a client's very specific requests.

JOHN'S BAY BOAT COMPANY

Poorhouse Cove Road, South Bristol, ME 04568
P: (207) 644-8261 | W: johnsbayboatcompany.com

JOHN'S BAY BOAT COMPANY is a small, traditional boatshop. We build custom plank on frame boats for work or pleasure up to 50' in length. Owner Peter Kass works alongside a small, highly experienced crew to efficiently build some of the best boats in Maine.

JOURNEY'S END MARINA

120 Tillson Avenue, Rockland, ME 04841
P: (207) 594-0400 | W: journeysendmarina.com

JOURNEY'S END MARINA has been located in Rockland, Maine for over 30 years. The parent company, O'Hara Corporation, has been in the maritime industry for over 100 years, operating fishing boats around the country.

THE LANDING SCHOOL

PO Box 1490, Kennebunkport, ME 04046
P: (207) 985-7976 | W: landingschool.edu

THE LANDING SCHOOL was established in 1978 as a nonprofit, post-secondary institution dedicated to providing the highest quality vocational education in boatbuilding.

NEWMAN & GRAY

PO Box 85, Cranberry Isles, ME 04625
P: (207) 244-0575 | W: newmanandgrayboatyard.com

NEWMAN & GRAY specializes in building custom and semi-custom powerboats as well as restoring classic wooden and fiberglass boats. Drawing on the long-standing tradition of Downeast-built boats, their projects exemplify timeless style and craftsmanship.

PORTLAND YACHT SERVICES

100 W. Commercial Street, Portland, ME 04101
P: (207) 774-1067 | W: portlandyacht.com

PORTLAND YACHT SERVICES is a full-service boat yard and marina just steps from the exceptional Old Port area in Portland. PYS provides a full spectrum of services for outfitting and maintaining a motor or sailing vessel. Our dedicated staff handles all types of storage, maintenance, refits, and restorations on any type of boat or yacht.

S.W. BOATWORKS

358 Douglas Highway, Lamoine, ME 04605
P: (207) 667-7427 | W: swboatworks.com

S.W. BOATWORKS specializes in all aspects of finish work, from the drawing board to completion. These boat styles always include lobster, yacht, deep-sea fishing, pleasure, passenger, and Coast Guard-approved vessels.

The only boatyard you'll ever need

- Emergency Haulout Services
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CB-42

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CB-44



YB-45

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40'x13'6" • 42'6"x15'8" • 45'x15'

SW Boatworks

www.swboatworks.com

(207) 667-7427

Lamoine, Maine 04605

swboatworks@gmail.com

SABRE YACHTS

12 Hawthorne Road, Raymond, ME 04077
P: (207) 655-3831 | W: sabreyachts.com

SABRE YACHTS has been crafting sail and motor yachts since 1970. The company has two facilities, one in Raymond, approximately 25 miles north of Portland, and the other in Rockland, which is connected to the facility owned by sister company Back Cove Yachts.

THE SHIPYARD IN BOOTHBAY HARBOR

120 Commercial Street, Boothbay Harbor, ME 04538
P: (207) 633-3171 | W: www.bristolmarine.com/locations/booth-bay/

Bristol Marine's THE SHIPYARD, formerly Sample's Shipyard, was founded in 1869. Continuing local shipbuilding tradition, the yard specializes in the maritime skills and trades that made New England famous.

SIX RIVER MARINE

160 Royal Road, North Yarmouth, ME 04097
P: (207) 846-6675 | W: sixrivermarine.com

SIX RIVER MARINE was established by boatbuilders Scott Conrad and Chip Miller. Over the years we've strived to refine our skills in both traditional and modern boatbuilding techniques with one key goal in mind: to efficiently provide our customers with finely crafted work that ensures lasting value.

SOUTHPORT BOATS

650 River Ave, PO Box 38, South Gardiner, Maine 04359
P: (207) 620-7998 | W: southportboats.com

SOUTHPORT BOATS is the culmination of a dream that began in North Carolina when a team of experienced boat builders, passionate fishermen and offshore racing enthusiasts joined forces with legendary C. Raymond Hunt Associates to develop a unique and revolutionary new boat design.

WILBUR YACHTS

200 Seawall Road, Southwest Harbor, ME 04693
P: (207) 244-5000 | W: wilburyachts.com

WILBUR YACHTS has built well in excess of 200 boats over the past 40 years – from workboats to yachts. During this time we have tried diligently to make the building process a unique and pleasant experience for our owners.

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Bruce A. Farrin & Sons

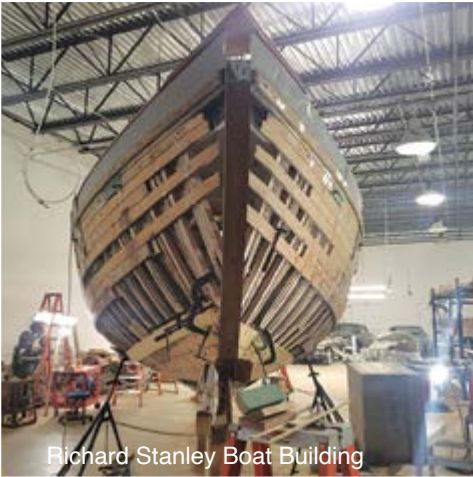


YANKEE MARINA & BOATYARD

142 Lafayette Street, P.O. Box 548, Yarmouth, ME 04096
P: 207-846-4326 | W: yankeemarina.com

YANKEE MARINA & BOATYARD provides solid technical consultation and maintains an ongoing dialogue to ensure that we meet your needs, budget and schedule. In achieving this goal, our crew views their responsibility personally for ensuring your safety and satisfaction.

Photos from around Maine's yards by Jon Johansen



Richard Stanley Boat Building



Brooklin Boat Yard



Atlantic Boat Co.



Front Street Shipyard



John's Bay Boat Co.

MAINE BUILT BOATS

Meet the Builders



Glenn & Gavin Holland

How did Maine's best boabuilders get started? What are their most memorable projects? Hear their stories in our exclusive video series featuring full-length interviews with renowned builders.



Bruce Farrin



The Maine Built Boats *Meet the Builders* video series is free to watch on our website or YouTube. Sign up for our e-newsletter to get new videos delivered to your inbox.

mainebuiltboats.com

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS



Maine's builders rely on suppliers and service providers around the world to get the best materials and services for each boat. Maine Built Boats' list of Associate Members is a reference guide of the critical businesses that support our industry.



ALEXSEAL

115 Bartlett Drive, Madison, CT 06443
P: (843) 654-7755 | W: alexseal.com

BBK DBA SACO INDUSTRIAL INNOVATION CENTER

10 Mill Brook Road Unit #13 | Saco, ME 04072



BILLY BLACK PHOTOGRAPHY

84 Hedly Street, Portsmouth, RI 02871
P: (401) 683-5500 | W: billyblack.com



DYSART'S GREAT HARBOR MARINA

11 Apple Lane, Southwest Harbor, ME 04679
Phone: (207) 244-0117 | W: dysartsmarina.com



EPIFANES NA INC.

70 Water Street, Thomaston, ME 04861
P: (866) 937-8797 | W: gougeon.com



GOUGEON BROTHERS INC.

PO Box 908, Bay City, MI 48707
 P: (207) 548-6302 | W: hamiltonmarine.com



HAMILTON MARINE

155 E. Main Street, Searsport, ME 04974
 P: (207) 548-6302 | W: hamiltonmarine.com



LYMAN-MORSE FABRICATION

19 Elltee Circle, Thomaston, Maine 04861
 P: (207) 594-7655 | W: lymanmorsefabrication.com



MAINE BOATS, HOMES & HARBORS

218 South Main Street, Ste. 300, Rockland, ME 04843
 P: (207) 594-8622 | W: maineboats.com



MAINE COASTAL NEWS

PO Box 710, Winterport, ME 04496
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MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION OF MAINE

101 Mcalister Farm Road, Portland, ME 04101
 P: (207) 747-4406 | W: mainemfg.com



MIDCOAST MARINE ELECTRONICS

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 P: (207) 594-3993 | W: midcoastmarine.com



NAUTILUS MARINE FABRICATION INC.

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NEWMAN MARINE BROKERAGE

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R.E. THOMAS MARINE HARDWARE INC.

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RAYMARINE

9 Townsend West, Nashua, NH 03063
P: (603) 324-7900 | W: raymarine.com



RHUMBLINE COMMUNICATIONS

PO Box 533, 96 Main St., 2nd Fl., Belfast, ME 04915
P: (207) 450-9943 | W: rhumblinecom.com



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366 U.S. 1, Falmouth, ME 04105
P: (207) 781-5553 | W: smithwick-ins.com



SOUTH SHORE BOAT WORKS

22 Industrial Blvd, Hanson, MA 02341
P: (781) 248-6446 | W: southshoreboatworks.com



VAN GORKOM YACHT DESIGN

305 Riverside Street | Portsmouth, RI 02871
W: vgyd.com



WoodenBoat

WOODENBOAT

PO Box 78 | Brooklin, ME 04616
P: (207) 359-4651 | W: woodenboat.com



LAUNCH A DREAM

Find your next boat: mainebuiltboats.com

Photo by Billy Black.

Where do dreams come from?

From out of the fog and the
deep waters off a rocky coastline.

From the inspiration of four centuries
of tradition.

And from working in partnership with
artisans who know that
if something's not exactly right,
it's hopelessly wrong.



Maine Built Boats, a 501(c)(6) nonprofit organization, was established in 2005 to strengthen and expand Maine's boat building industry. The organization is creating a unified brand that presents Maine as a worldwide leader in boatbuilding quality,

technology, and craftsmanship. MBB uses unique and aggressive initiatives to promote the brand and increase demand for Maine built boats in regional, national and international markets and strengthen the boatbuilding community.

MBB is dedicated to supporting marine industry training and the development of technologies that enhance industry products and performance.

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