



For Immediate Release
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Organizations Support Regional On-Site ABYC Training *Class Held in Pacific Northwest Area Achieves 100% Pass Rate*

December 17, 2008, Annapolis, MD: As part of its “On-Site” training program, the American Boat & Yacht Council (ABYC) recently conducted two classes in Seattle, WA. Sponsored by the Northwest Marine Trade Association (NMTA), local marine professionals attended an ABYC Basic Electrical course, as well as an ABYC Electrical Certification course. In addition to the NMTA, Seawide Distribution showed their support for the training sessions by hosting the course at their Seattle office, promoting the class to their customers and reaching out to other marine industry companies to solicit sponsorships. Answering Seawide’s request, Charles Industries donated breakfast each day of the class, as well as \$600 worth of gift cards to the attendees.

J. Mark Barrett, Regional Sales Manager for Seawide Distribution was interested in supporting this training effort because, “Seawide specializes in the distribution and sales of highly technical and expensive marine electronics and electrical systems. Successful sales and customer satisfaction require that the equipment be installed correctly the first time. When a technician has the training to install sophisticated systems successfully, they not only feel good about themselves, but are a credit to the marine industry. I congratulate the individuals and companies who are investing in the long term health of our industry during these difficult times, as well as the team that made these courses happen: NMTA, Seawide, ABYC and Charles Industries.”

Mike New, ABYC’s Director of Education said, “We want to thank everyone involved in making this course such a success. Our On-Site training model is a real win-win for everyone, and we would like to establish this kind of relationship with other state marine trade associations.” New continued, “The NMTA, Seawide Distribution and Charles Industries went above and beyond to help us ensure that people knew the courses were being offered in their area and that it was a positive experience.” All individuals who attended the Electrical Certification passed the 200-question certification exam. The following companies now have ABYC Electrical Certified Technicians on staff:

- S3 Maritime (2 attendees), Seattle, WA
- Berg Marine Surveys, Anacortes, WA
- Cap Sante Marine, Anacortes, WA
- Coastal Marine Engine, Seattle, WA
- John Lee, Greenbank, WA
- MER Equipment (2 attendees), Seattle, WA
- Miller & Miller Boatyard Company, Seattle, WA
- Sans Souci, Seattle, WA
- Townsend Bay Marine (2 attendees), Port Townsend, WA

— more —

“The NMTA is thrilled to partner with ABYC to provide world-class training to technicians and marine professionals in the Pacific Northwest,” stated John Thornburn, Director of Communications and Marketing for the NMTA. “We are committed to providing our workers in the marine industry with the tools necessary to be successful today and in the future. ABYC represents the very best in skills training and we look forward to offering more courses in the coming months and years.”

ABYC offers technical training courses that progress from basic to advanced, and includes eight workforce certification courses for marine technicians and professionals. To schedule an On-Site course, or to receive more information on customized training programs, both state-side and around the globe, contact Michael New at (410) 990-4460, ext. 31 or via email at mnew@abycinc.org. For a listing of regularly scheduled ABYC Certification courses and other training programs, please visit www.abycinc.org.

ABYC has been developing, writing and updating the safety standards for boat building and repair in the United States for over 50 years. ABYC is actively involved with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) as well as education and certification programs for marine technicians. These standards are available on CD-ROM, online (*Web-STIR* and the *ABYC Standards Powered by Rulefinder.net*) and in printed form. Membership and general information can be requested by visiting the ABYC Web site at www.abycinc.org.