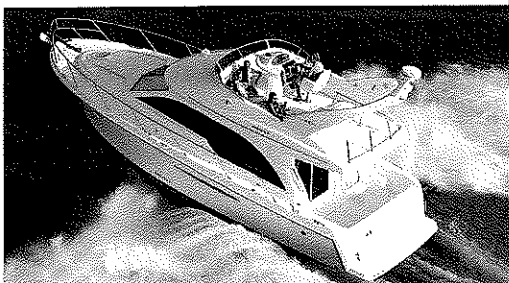


SCUTTLEBUTT

Meridian on Top Again

For the fourth year running, Meridian Yachts sold the most flying-bridge boats in the nation according to registration records, followed by its sister company Sea Ray, according to Statistical Surveys of Grand Rapids, Michigan. The Knoxville, Tennessee, boat-builder said 2009 also marked its highest market share in the 35- to 60-foot category, with nearly 20 percent of the market. "It was a year of significant transition for Meridian," Sea Ray Group President Rob Parmentier says. "We restarted production of two existing models and added the new 541 Sedan Bridge flagship."

We're pleased with Meridian's retail performance during the transition." Like Sea Ray, Meridian is owned by the Brunswick Corp.



Beloved Harbormaster Retires After Three Decades

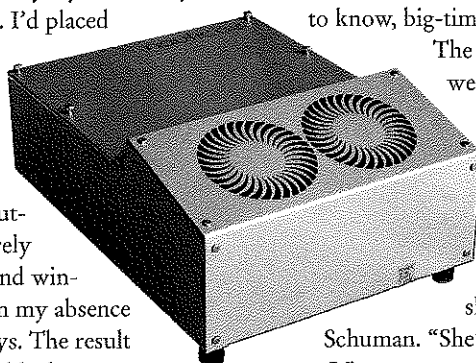
Catalina Island boaters said farewell to harbormaster Doug Oudin after his retirement in June. The 32-year resident of Two Harbors began working for Catalina Cove Marina in 1978, when he and his soon-to-be wife Maureen moved to the island on a whim. "We had a one-year plan to do something different, and it turned into a love affair," Oudin recalls. Next for the Oudins? A move to Grant's Pass, Oregon. "I plan to do a lot of freshwater fishing," he says. "But I'm going to miss Catalina."

PMY TRIES...

Nautic Air

It was an interesting suggestion, really.

Some weeks before, Heath Schuman of Nautic Air had UPS'd me an experimental version of his portable NA20 air purifier to temporarily try out on my trawler *Betty Jane*. I'd placed the thing on the dining table in *Betty's* saloon straight off, plugged it into a nearby 110-volt outlet, and after securely closing all doors and windows, let 'er run in my absence for a couple of days. The result was hardly noticeable, however, most likely because *Betty* had been darn unsmelly prior to the NA20's test despite her 22-year-old vintage.



Now my boss Capt. Richard Thiel was suggesting I try the unit on another vessel, preferably a liveaboard inhabited by a pipe, cigar, or cigarette smoker. "Yeah," I replied, warming to the idea. "I've got just the guy." Lee Pottle, a cigar-smoking liveaboard, was excited about the project when I hit him up. Would a combination of photo-catalytic oxidation and electrically polarized media remove "99.7% of harmful airborne

contaminants" onboard his *Marina Beema*, as promised by Nautic Air? And, more importantly perhaps, would it nix the cigar-smoking issue that was currently troubling the romantic side of his life? Pottle wanted to know, big-time!

The answers came after a week's usage. "My girlfriend loves the difference—the cigar smell's gone, totally," grinned Pottle when my wife BJ and I stopped by to pick up the NA20 for shipment back to

Schuman. "She's happy as a clam, and so am I." My wife, whose olfactory sensibilities are way more discerning than mine, heartily agreed. She detected no odors whatsoever onboard Pottle's boat. And for that matter, neither did I.

—Capt. Bill Pike

Nautic Air (410) 604-2801. www.nauticair.net.

Comments, questions, or want to see more photos and content? GO TO CAPT. BILL PIKE'S BLOG @ POWERANDMOTORYACHT.COM

THINGS WE LIKE

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