



Charleston wins Jack Nichol award

USA: Charleston City Marina, Charleston, South Carolina has won the 2009 Jack Nichol Marina Design Award for outstanding marina design. The award is made annually by PIANC, Belgium, the international association for waterborne transport infrastructure that was established in 1885.

The jury deemed Charleston City Marina as 'best representing the technical, functional, aesthetic and environmental award criteria'.

Originally a municipal marina, the facility was privatised in 1994 and subsequently underwent a major redevelopment in the hands of new owners, The City Marina Company, and industry consultants, Applied Technology & Management (ATM).

ATM developed detailed economic and investment strategies which were followed by several years of phased improvements and expansions. Over a ten year period, upwards of

US\$10 million was spent on renovations and yearly revenue, from 1994 to 2007, increased from just \$178,000 to over \$12 million.

The marina is a key component of Charleston's overall city centre redevelopment plans and serves as an anchor from the upland, providing easy access to everything the peninsula has to offer. The most recent marina improvements included the addition of a 1,000ft long transient dock and fuelling station specifically designed to capture the largest of the boats passing through Charleston's historic seaport.

Fight continues over marina expansion in Rhode Island

USA: As part of a nearly seven-year battle, Rhode Island Superior Court Associate Justice Netti C. Vogel ruled in favour of an expansion for Champlin Marina (New Shoreham, Rhode Island) last February. But, the fight isn't over yet.

Champlin Marina's plans would nearly double its capacity. The crux of the fight is based on the fragile ecosystem in Great Salt Pond on Block Island. Upon entering Great Salt Pond, Champlin's Marina, Hotel and Resort is the first and largest marina. With a 30-foot (9-m) harbour depth and large docking facilities, Champlin's Marina can accommodate 225 boats including deep-draft yachts up to 195 feet (60m).

The new docks would stretch 240 feet (73m) and cover four acres (1.6 hectares) of the Great Salt Pond, a 1.2-mile (1.9 km) waterway and popular boating destination. According to the opposition, expanding the marina would restrict public access to Great Salt Pond and increase the potential for degraded water quality in the summer due to an increase in boaters.

Largest opposition comes directly from the

RI Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) whose primary responsibility is to issue the permits that would allow such an expansion. The CRMC has received a great deal of pressure from the Conservation Law Foundation (CLF), a New England environmental advocacy group. Opponents also include the Town of Shoreham and Rhode Island Lieutenant Governor Charles Fogarty.

"The State of Rhode Island has a responsibility to maintain the quality, accessibility and economic viability of coastal waters in its public trust. The proposed expansion would work against these important principles," Fogarty stated. "Great Salt Pond's ecosystem does not have the capacity to handle further expansion of the marina."

The Town of Shoreham is expected to appeal.

UK Marina Conference

13th-14th May 2009

UK: The increasingly popular UK Marina Conference – now in its fifth year – will be held 13th-14th May at the Marriott Hotel, Portsmouth. Last year the event attracted 130 delegates from the UK, Spain, France and Italy.

As in past years, the conference programme – put together by the British Marine Federation (BMF) in conjunction with the UK and Europe Certified Marina Managers Group and the Yacht Harbour Association – is diverse and interactive.

Topics to be covered for 2009 will include carbon neutral marinas; dredging (the UK Marine Bill); the legal and insurance angles on 'acts of God'; the 'lean' office; best customer retention ideas; marina rates; and water regulations.

Peter Czapp of The Wow Company will deliver the keynote presentation 'Seven Steps to Marketing Success' and Rod Carr, chief executive of the Royal Yachting Association, entertain delegates as the after dinner speaker on 13th May. The event also includes a 'state of the industry' panel discussion and a Green Blue (environmental awareness) networking lunch.

The conference is sponsored by Walcon Marine. To register, call Deidre Williams on +44 (0) 1784 22360.

Marinas 2009

25th-27th May

AUSTRALIA: The Marinas 2009 conference and exhibition will be addressing the big issues facing the marina industry in Australia and around the globe. Topics will include the impact of the financial crisis on marinas; leases and access to capital; and costs and benefits of dry land boat storage.

Run by the Marina Industries Association of Australia (MIAA), Marinas 2009 is expected to attract record numbers despite the current economic climate. Conference committee chairman, Mike Harvey, says the industry feedback he is receiving indicates that marina related businesses are ready to gather nationally at the event.

"They are telling me the timing's good for Marinas 2009. Operators are getting sick of hearing the bad economic news and they want to get together with colleagues to listen, discuss and develop strategies to strengthen their own businesses."

Marinas 2009 will also see the launch of a range of innovative products and services for marinas including two MIAA initiatives to assist marinas promote and develop their businesses.

High profile Australian businessman Trevor Rowe will set the scene for the conference with his address 'All at Sea? Navigating the Financial Global Crisis' and further keynotes will be given by Jim Frye of Westrec Marinas, USA and Mick Bettesworth of MDL Marinas, UK.

Registration and full programme details can be found at www.marinas2009.com