

THE LANDING SCHOOL

Imagine. Design. Build. Maintain.



Highlights & Events

"Thank You"

As we enter the New Year it's a time to reflect on those who enable what we do, and to thank them. I want to call out three of them at this time, without whom we wouldn't be the organization we are today.

First is Jamie Houtz. Many, if not all of you, will know Jamie. Thirty year's service was celebrated at an impromptu gathering in the Wooden Boatbuilding shop this week. Jamie has seen a few sit in my chair in his time. He explained that



"Every time we get a new President, it's like he's the excited bus driver, grabbing the wheel of his new toy and yanking it right and left. Meanwhile the rest of the team are at the back of the bus being thrown side to side and not having as much fun". I have used Jamie as my rear-view mirror, helping me to look back and understand how we got to where we are and insuring I learn some of the lessons of the past. With his help I am doing my best to navigate the bus without any U-turns, and keeping the passengers comfortable. For more on Jamie see the story following, and please email your story [here](#) to be added to a growing compilation of tall tales for the website...there will be many.

This leads me to thanking the whole of the faculty. They are the ones that "do the work". As you'll read in my [blog post](#), I recently delivered a week of classes in Composites during IPAP. It was hard work. Very hard work. You've all heard *"Those who can, do. Those who can't, teach...and those who can't teach, administer"* After a week in front of a handful of students, I now have newfound appreciation for my team. They do a tough job. And, judging by feedback in our mid year student survey, they do it very well. This group of *"can do teaching"* is the heart of the school, and I take my hat off to them.

At a recent Board of Trustee's meeting we were entertained and informed by Andy Robinson (www.trainyourboard.com). He gave us useful benchmarks for the non-profit business model, confirming that as a small school earning two thirds or more of our income from services provided (i.e. tuition) was about right. The balance comes from philanthropy. So my third "Thank You" is directed at our wonderfully supportive donors. We are drawing near to the conclusion of a very successful end of year appeal. We have raised nearly double that donated in recent years. More importantly well over half the donors are new contributors. We rely on this broad base, repeat donors and new (whom we hope will become repeat), to enable us to provide the quality of education our students need in order to be successful in industry. We have been doing this for forty years, and the support of our alumni, industry, suppliers, and friends will insure we can continue to provide the best faculty and facilities.

Richard Downs-Honey, President

Industry & Friends Open House

Join us here in our Wooden Boatbuilding Shop for food & drinks, program tours, networking and a short presentation on the three Town Class Sailboats being built at The Landing School in 2019/20.

Thursday, February 20th from 5-7pm

RSVP



Get your Landing School gear and kick off the new year in style!

Buy it here

Feature Article

Jamie Houtz: 30 Years

Jamie just walked in. It's 9:15am and he's returning from Portland where he rented a van for the Wooden Boatbuilding program's field trip today. Turns out the rental company requires the person "whose name appears on the credit card" to be present, "in person". But he's back now, no sweat, no complaint, just another day at The Landing School for Jamie; tackling everything and anything that requires his attention. And that's, for the most part, been the case over the past 30 years he's spent working here. 30 YEARS LAST WEEK, in fact. Richard argues that its 30 years this week if you account for leap years. Regardless, we're happy (and lucky) that Jamie's still around. In the ever-changing college landscape, he's a direct link to the school's past, providing anecdotal insights and "lessons learned" in order to help steer the school towards its future...



Jamie with his wife Nancy this past Wednesday night at his "surprise" party, celebrating 30 years.

Industry Support Benefits our Students



Visit ABYC

ABYC The Landing School is grateful for the support of the ABYC Foundation, which enables us to identify students with the right attitude and enthusiasm to be successful in the marine industry, and provide meaningful scholarships. This year Malini Huseman was awarded a scholarship from ABYC, which helped her make the decision to attend our Marine Systems program...after which, Malini is looking for a career in Maine, on or close to the water. *"I want to grow within the job, and know everything about anything. I'd love to be a jack of all trades, but don't have time to stay in school forever, so I need a position that enables me to advance and continue learning"*. Thanks to ABYC for their ongoing support.

SAFE HARBOR MARINAS While our annual job fair is well supported, sowing the seeds beforehand gives students the time they need to make a big decision. A recent visit from a major supporter of the TLS, Safe Harbor Marinas, presented the students with food for thought. Holly Ashton and the team talked to a somewhat skeptical group just before the Christmas vacation. On the face of it, the Safe Harbors marinas look like all the others scattered up and down the coast, but unlike the locally owned small businesses they are a connected network with a whole new range of options for growth within the organization. If one wanted to stick with one company and pursue a career through the trades and into management, Safe Harbors offers scale other yards don't. You could also consider working with Safe Harbors in warmer locations, something that seemed attractive as winter approached. We sincerely appreciate their continued support.



SAFE HARBOR
M A R I N A S

Visit Safe Harbor

In the News

In Memoriam, Derek Wright

It is with great sadness that The Landing School has learned of the passing of Derek Wright. Derek was a graduate of the Yacht Design program class of 2005 and later

became a Yacht Design instructor. His career also included important roles at Michael Peters Yacht Design, Intrepid Powerboats and Boska Marine. Derek was smart, creative and had a wickedly witty sense of humor. He made friends easily and earned the respect of students and peers alike. He will be greatly missed by The Landing School community. Our heartfelt sympathies go out to his family, Rani, and twin daughters, Koda and Kyra.

2020 Marine Surveyors Course

For the last 18 days ten people joined us at the school to partake in the Marine Surveying Course, taught by Pat Goodroe. It's a fast-paced course taught in 21 contiguous days. The successful applicant should have substantial background in the marine industry and good computer skills. Course participants will also prepare for and take the ABYC Standards certification test. If you or someone you know may be interested in this program, please email emma@landingschool.edu for more information or click the link below.

[Marine Surveying Course](#)

Notes from the Shop Floor



IPAP Week

For the first time in school history potential students were invited to participate in IPAP week. IPAP week, traditionally, is a time for current students to experience one of the other programs TLS offers. This is a great way for students to gain a broader knowledge base, as well as settle on which program they will attend the following year. This year we decided to invite "highly interested" candidates to join us for the week. While it's a fairly major undertaking (leaving school/work, travel, room and board, etc) four candidates accepted the invitation. By all accounts, including faculty, the operation was a success and we will absolutely implement this again in 2021. Please let us know if you or someone you know is interested in attending in 2021. Click the link below to read Richard's blog post about his experience teaching during this year's IPAP week.

[Read the Latest "IPAP" Blog Post](#)