



Jeff's Marine, Inc.

2 Brooklyn Heights – P.O. Box 236 – Thomaston, ME 04861

Winter Newsletter 2020

It has been a long time since you have had a newsletter from Jeff's Marine. I have been reading back over all of the letters my dad wrote to customers, so much has changed from 2008 to 2016. Four years after Jeff's passing, these newsletters have become a source of guidance and memory as we make changes and improvements to the marina. My father's letters have been an important narrative of the history of the business. Knowing this, it is a daunting task to be taking up his pen and writing to all of you. We have been fortunate to have loyal customers whom we have known for a long time, and many new customers whom we are very excited to welcome. As many of you know, my mother Nancy Armstrong, took over the business after my father passed. She has led the marina in this change, and fostered its growth. With guidance from my uncle, Rob, and help from her team, Nancy has done an amazing job with the many challenges and changes at the marina.

This winter we overhauled our showroom, moved everything out of the offices, and began attacking the many different colors and shades of paint trim, wall, and floor color. We curated our selection of fishing photos, guns, giant fish, posters, furs, and Yamaha memorabilia. When you visit later this spring the new showroom will be bright and clean, with enough of dad's old flair for antiques and fish so you can feel his presence. Jeff's lending library will remain open, where you may take one of the many paper back novels he read through like the wind. We will also have printed copies of past newsletters that you can peruse if you are stopping in for business or just to say hello.

Our crew has changed over the past four years. My husband, Thomas Turansky, has just celebrated his first year managing the marina. Thomas and I met in Camden in the summer of 2017. In the spring of 2017, Drew Lyman had asked me to help him run a Youth Regatta for his Camden Classics Cup Regatta he was trying to grow at his new boatyard at Wayfarer. I couldn't say no. I was working at the Children's House Montessori School at the time, and was happy to spend more time boating in Camden. We organized a fun, well-attended 420 regatta for youth from many local yacht clubs and sailing programs. That summer we showcased the 14' DLX Carolina Skiff with the 25 HP Yamaha with electric start, trim, and tilt. What a sweet engine to use when you need transportation in a harbor and a little speed to get from here to there comfortably. At the time, the EFI 25 was new to the market, and still is the lightest four-stroke 25 out there. They don't like to be left in idle constantly, Jeff always recommended, and I do as

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well, that if you have a small outboard for going back and forth between your float or boat or dock, don't just idle her all summer. Give her a good run whenever possible to blow her out. Keep your engine clean, your fuel fresh, use a small tank!

Thomas was at the Camden Classics Cup Youth Regatta coaching for Rockland Community Sailing, he was a new Apprentice at the shop, and he got a ride on the skiff to coach his kids with me, as the skiff was serving as safety boat. We had drinks at the Rhumbline after the regatta and went sailing two days later on his Cape Dory 27'. We were engaged six months later and married in September of 2018 at my mother's house in Thomaston. Thomas finished his education at the Apprenticeshop the following winter, and joined the marina full time last spring.

Originally from Arizona, Thomas grew up sailing in San Diego, and holds a degree in Industrial Engineering from the University of Southern California. It's been reassuring to have him there as I continue teach Montessori, now in Damariscotta. This June, Thomas and I are excited to welcome our first child into the world. While Thomas will be absent for an undetermined number of days this June, we will be ready for a busy summer! It is such a joy planning for a baby, and my mom and Thomas's parents share in our excitement.

Nancy continues to live in Thomaston, and is at the marina daily supporting the crew. We have three skilled Yamaha Techs at the marina, Skip and Steve work in Bay 3 and 4, and John in the main shop, who also manages parts and inventory. Derrick and Jake run our yard, and are trusty team. We are excited to welcome Tracy Mills to the front office; she will be the voice you hear on the phone and see at the front desk. In our back office, Marlo still oversees our accounts, and has been an enormous help to Nancy. This past summer, Nancy refinished our 20' Bertram, the *Knotch*. With a new demo engine, headliner interior, and cushions done by George's River Canvas, the girl is a fun ride on the water, and fast! Many of the old Bertrams we had were great fun, but the I/Os were too heavy and bulky in the stern to replace. With Alan Spear's 21' and our 25' Bertram, *White Knuckles*, we put a platform on the stern to mount the outboard. The *Knotch* has been notched out, with controls through the stern compartments. Nancy has been busy keeping the fleet in good running shape. She has also been working this winter on restoring Jeff's old MG convertible. Skip has taken on the challenge of replacing the MG's console, controls, seats, and interior. She will be a sweet ride on a hot summer day.

Carolina Skiff has been a challenge for us and the other Maine dealers this year. As of the annual Carolina Skiff meeting last June, the company has decided to stop production on their smaller hulled boats, including the 12-16' J and DLX series. Obviously, this comes as a huge disappointment to us, local dealers, and those in the mid-coast who know what a value they offer to the commercial fisherman and pleasure boater. Our own 14' Carolina Skiff has been



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indispensable in island work and transport. They have been a steadfast choice for many years. Our challenge now is to find or create something of equal quality, design, construction, and cost. Thomas and I have many burners on the stove for the summer, and in the meantime, we still carry Duranautic aluminum skiffs in a V-Hull and Jon Boat series. Salty Boats has been a wonderful addition to our line at the marina; my cousin, Lexi Armstrong, is a proud new owner of the 14' V-Hull fiberglass boat with a center console perfect for her, her man, and her dog. Complete with a trailer and custom canvas, she is a happy boat owner. Holland has also been a great option for people looking for a larger, denser hull for inshore cruising and fishing.

My brother Gordon is still living in Portland, dating a great girl, Emily. He is working hard for his company, ETech Associates, inspecting bridges, docks, and railroads. His recently purchased a small lot in Kingsfield to further his skiing fun on the mountain, and will be spending time this spring getting the house finished with his buddies before the summer season hits. This fall, I do not plan on returning to teaching. Instead I will be a full-time mother, spending some time working at the marina in marketing and sales, promoting our business and hopefully seeing many of you.

We thank you for your continued business, and hope to serve you in any way we can. Please don't call on July 2nd wanting your boat for the 3rd! Please this season, give us at least two weeks' notice to have your boat ready. If there was something you meant to do and never mentioned it, like have your railings oiled or varnished, you really do want new bottom paint, or you're ready to repower, the sooner we know, the sooner we can make it happen. As we get closer to the 4th of July, things always get busier, and I remind you now for patience with my husband, who will be a father for the first time in June! We will continue to serve you in your boating needs, and look forward to a wonderful and safe summer.

Kathryn A. Turansky